During the month of March, my husband and I traveled to Fort Campbell, Kentucky to send off my oldest son, Paul, who is a first lieutenant in the United States Army’s 101st Airborne Division. At the end of our visit, Paul was to be deployed with other members of his brigade to the Middle East. However, at the eleventh hour, Paul was told that their flight had been put on hold “for an indeterminate period of time.” As we sat among his packed bags, an initial response of gratitude and relief flooded over me. I hoped that perhaps he would be spared, after all, from having to fight in a war against Iraq. However, reality very quickly took hold again and I realized that he was still going to have to go to Iraq and fulfill the responsibilities his country was asking of him. It was not a matter of if he went, but if he went, and my feelings of uncertainty and fear for him quickly returned.

Being the mother of a son who is leaving for war is the most difficult thing I have ever faced in my life. You, too, may have a child or husband in the military and are experiencing the same range of emotions. Regardless, I think all of us in these times are confronting feelings of uncertainty and fear as we worry about friends serving in the military, growing international tensions, uncertainty of what the future may bring, and our own safety and security. One minute we are hopeful, and the next our hopes are dashed. As Abraham Maslow told us in his work on the hierarchy of human needs, it is difficult to function at higher levels when our basic needs of security and safety are threatened.

Nevertheless, even as I try to sort out my emotions in this very difficult personal time, I find myself turning to two sources of strength and I encourage you to do the same. First, I am so grateful to my family and friends — especially the Converse community — for the moral support and encouragement they have given me during this time. Hardly a day goes by when someone does not ask me how Paul is doing and what they can do to help. I am most grateful for family and friends who have surrounded me with the love and support that is literally sustaining me. Second, I turn to my faith in God day after day and night after night. I, like Rabbi Kushner, am convinced that “bad things happen to nice people.” But my faith in God and His love sustains me, and I hope your faith will guide and sustain you and our nation’s leaders.

In the midst of the difficult times in which we live, Converse is completing its highly successful “Campaign for Converse: Building for the Future.” With our international tension and economic uncertainty, you may wonder why this campaign is even significant. Yet, if you think about Converse history, she has come through difficult times in her own past and in the nation’s past. Perhaps there is no greater test of the character of an individual or an institution than how one responds under pressure.

After having served at Converse for three and a half years, I am more convinced than ever that Converse has made and continues to make a tremendous difference in the lives of her students. Sustaining this for the next century depends on the willingness of her alumnae and friends today to support the students. I am most grateful for family and friends — especially the Converse alumnae and friends — who gave to their school during each academic year. I ask you to do the same. First, I am so grateful to my family and friends who have supported the students financially and through the referrals of new students. Sustaining this for the next century depends on the willingness of her alumnae and friends today to support the students. I am most grateful for family and friends — especially the Converse alumnae and friends — who gave to their school during each academic year. I ask you to do the same. First, I am so grateful to my family and friends who have sustained me, and I hope your faith will guide and sustain you and our nation’s leaders.

May God bless you.

Nancy Gray
WE NEED YOU NOW
Help us finish the job by June 30, 2003.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR CONVERSE ENDS
JUNE 30, 2003! Your alma mater needs you now more than ever. We have successfully raised more than $75 million, but two critical areas remain in which your help is needed by June 30: the Converse Annual Fund and the Kresge Challenge. We still need $1.4 million in order to meet the Converse Annual Fund goal. And this year, we have a rare opportunity to earn $750,000 for campus construction from the Kresge Foundation if we increase the number of alumnae who give to Converse. Together, we can make it happen!

WHAT IS THE CONVERSE ANNUAL FUND?
The Converse Annual Fund is the portion of the operating budget not covered by endowment income or tuition and fees. These dollars must be raised every year to provide scholarships and support other essential needs such as faculty salaries and the library. Converse hopes to reduce its future dependency on the annual fund by increasing the endowment.

HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN!
90% of Donors give gifts of less than $1,000, proof that every gift – no matter the size – makes a difference!

LET’S CLIMB THE CHARTS FOR ALUMNAE GIVING!
The number of alumnae who give is an important indicator of alumnae faith in their alma mater. Major donors are eager to lend their support to institutions where alumnae are giving alongside them. Philanthropic organizations invest their dollars in institutions that show strong support from alumnae. U.S. News & World Report and other key ranking organizations give higher ratings to institutions that are strongly supported by alumnae.

Converse Annual Fund

Every year, Converse gives $5 million in scholarships to bright young women who contribute greatly to the community of Converse. Approximately $3 million of this funding comes from the Converse Annual Fund and must be raised every year from alumnae and friends of the College in order to make these scholarships possible.

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The Kresge Challenge for Campus Construction

HOW CAN YOU HELP CONVERSE EARN $750,000?

Converse received a challenge grant from the Kresge Foundation that will earn the College $750,000 towards construction of Phifer Hall if we meet the requirements by June 30, 2003. Not only does this challenge provide significant funding, but it also indicates an impressive stamp of approval from the Kresge Foundation. We need many new donors in order to meet the challenge and demonstrate our capability for broader institutional support.

GIFTS OF EVERY SIZE COUNT — INCLUDING BRICKS FOR PHIFER!

ONE WAY TO SUPPORT THE KRESGE CHALLENGE IS TO GIVE A BRICK FOR THE WALKWAY LEADING TO THE NEW PHIFER SCIENCE HALL.

Give a brick in your name, or someone else’s, for the Phifer walkway.

I WILL HELP!

CONVERSE ANNUAL FUND

- Founder’s Circle: $25,000+
- Leadership Circle: $10,000- $24,999
- President’s Circle: $5,000- $9,999
- Reverence Tower: $2,500-$4,999
- Service Tower: $1,000- $2,499
- Loyalty Tower: $250-$499
- Friendship Tower: $100-$249
- Converse Fund: $1-$99

❑ My gift: $ ___________

KRESGE CHALLENGE — CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Gifts support construction for Phifer Science Hall, renovation of Belk Residence Hall, and Montgomery Student Activities Building.

❑ My gift: $ ___________

❑ My personalized brick(s) for the Phifer Walkway ($125 each) $ ___________

Brick message:

Make checks payable to Converse College, or charge your credit card by providing information below:

Name  ________________________________________________________________________________
Card type:   Visa   MasterCard   Discover
Card number ________________________________ Expiration Date ____________________________

Detach this form and mail to:

Converse College
Office of Institutional Advancement
580 East Main Street
Spartanburg, SC 29302

JUNE 30, 2003

ONE WAY TO SUPPORT THE KRESGE CHALLENGE IS TO GIVE A BRICK FOR THE WALKWAY LEADING TO THE NEW PHIFER SCIENCE HALL.
CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION

PHIFER SCIENCE HALL IS UNDERWAY!

Construction of the new 36,000-square-foot, three-story Phifer Science Hall began in late February 2003 and is projected to open in the fall of 2004. This campaign project reflects Converse’s commitment to preparing women for the ever-changing world of technology and scientific innovation. The building will house the natural sciences (biology, chemistry, and biochemistry) and partially house the computer science department.

In December 2001, The Kresge Foundation in Troy, Michigan, approved a $750,000 challenge grant for construction of Phifer Hall. Converse must receive 254 gifts from new donors by July 1, 2003, in order to receive the grant.

Phifer Hall will be prominently located on the inner quad of the campus between Montgomery Student Center and Blackman Music Hall (see diagram at left). The building is designed to have two facades, one facing the center of campus and the other facing Pine Street. The project includes a tower reminiscent to Wilson Hall and a new plaza on the Pine Street side of Phifer that will provide open green space where students can gather and relax. It is likely that a fountain and/or garden will be special features of this plaza to make it as welcoming as possible.

New parking and reconstruction of the entry road from the Drayton Avenue end of campus are also part of the project.

The entry to the building on the first floor will be a two-story open area leading to a tiered auditorium. The botany laboratory, herbarium, greenhouse, and computer science laboratory will be located on the first floor. Additional biology and computer science laboratories and faculty offices will be located on the second floor. The third floor will house organic, analytical, physical and environmental, and general chemistry laboratories. Additionally, faculty offices, research laboratories, and a study room will be housed on the third floor.

THE TRANSFORMATION OF BELK RESIDENCE HALL INTO SUITES

Converse’s on-campus living requirement is a valuable part of the student experience. The sense of community that comes from students living together on campus is not only integral to the Converse experience, it is also a factor that makes our residence hall offerings much more important in attracting students. The Belk Hall renovation will offer upperclass students the opportunity to share apartment-style living space with roommates.

Belk Hall formerly housed single and double student rooms with hall bathrooms. After the renovation, it will contain double suites (two bedrooms with walk-in closets) adjoined by a bathroom, double rooms with private baths, and single rooms with private baths.

Many other new features will be incorporated into the renovation, such as Thermo-pane windows, heating and A/C, lighting, carpet, color scheme, lobby furniture, and landscaping for the front patios.

The hall will open for returning students this fall (2003).
Shining on Stage

Converse Opera Theatre Productions Prepare Music Students for Professional Careers

Converse Opera Theatre presents at least one fully-staged opera each academic year, as well as an opera scenes concert. This spring, the production was Mozart’s “The Magic Flute,” accompanied by the Converse Symphony Orchestra. The experience offers both vocal and instrumental students the opportunity to participate in a professional production where they gain firsthand insight into the workings of auditioning, casting, staging, costuming, lighting, producing and directing, technical theatre, and orchestra preparation. The opera experience at Converse provides a valuable career edge as they enter the professional world of musical performance.

Anna Steenerson ’03 sang the role of Pamina during the January 31st performance of “The Magic Flute.”

Performing for the Metropolitan Opera is a dream come true for any vocalist. And on November 16, Anna Steenerson ’03 took one more step in turning that dream into a reality.

On that day, the Mauldin, SC, native and 18 other vocalists from throughout the state gathered in Columbia (SC) to audition for the Metropolitan National Opera Council. At the end of the day, Anna was among only three participants chosen to advance to the regional auditions in Atlanta. Only one person will be selected as winner at the regional and go on to compete in the National Semi-Finals in New York in March. The Met uses the auditions program to discover new talent and to search for possible participants in the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program.

As she stood center stage, Anna was well aware that the ears trained upon her voice belonged to judges who were accustomed to hearing the best. “One judge has had a wonderful career in singing and teaching, and has sung with the NYC Opera,” says Anna. “Another judge casts for the Washington Opera, and the third is a world renowned accompanist and vocal coach.”

Because an audition for The Met can be a tremendous career opportunity, nervous butterflies would have been natural. And while she may have been just a bit anxious, Anna recalled advice from her voice teacher at Converse College, Dr. Beverly Hay. “She simply told me to ‘sing like I was going to win.’”

Anna, a soprano, first sang the aria “Quel guardio, il cavaliere” by Donizetti, which ends on high E-flat. “I chose the piece with the help of Dr. Hay,” said Anna. She knows it well and has performed it often. The judges selected the second piece, “Qui la voce” by Bellini. “It’s the newest and hardest thing I’ve ever attempted,” Anna says.

Rhoda Paschal, Director for the SC District of the Metropolitan National Council Auditions, could not have been more pleased with the group’s selection of Anna. “Anna will make an absolutely delightful representative of the state,” Rhoda said. “She is so gifted and has obviously been well-taught.”

Tharanga Goonetilleke ’05 performed the role of Pamina during the February 2nd performance.

As recently as two years ago, Tharanga Goonetilleke was studying at CMS Ladies’ College in her native Sri Lanka for a career in medicine. Those plans changed after a chance encounter with Converse professor Dr. Douglas Weeks in December 2000.

“I was on a three-country tour of South Asia,” said Dr. Weeks, “and my last stop was with the Sri Lanka Symphony Orchestra.” Tharanga was scheduled to participate in the same performance. “I went to the first rehearsal and was absolutely blown away by this tremendous soprano,” he recalled.

After the rehearsal, he approached Tharanga and encouraged her to consider devoting more time to her vocal talents as a student at Converse. “Because Converse has one of the finest voice programs in America, and since Tharanga had never traveled outside of her country, I thought that the school would make for a perfect fit,” he said.

At the time, Tharanga was not quite sure what to make of Dr. Weeks. “I thought he was just being nice,” she says now. “But I really did not give it much thought until I received application materials from Converse,” she said. “At the time, music was just something I did on the side because I still planned to pursue a career in medicine.”

Tharanga was initially offered a scholarship package of $13,000 from Converse. That left roughly $6,000 needed to cover tuition, room, and board. While Tharanga increasingly warmed to the idea of coming to Converse, she felt the financial situation might prove too high of a barrier to overcome. “There was no way I could come up with the $6,000 myself,” she said. “But the choir director of the Ladies’ College and others who had seen me perform saw that this was a tremendous opportunity for me, and as a group, they gave me the money I needed.”

Beverly Hay, professor of voice at Converse, recognized Tharanga’s extraordinary talent from the moment she stepped on campus. Dr. Hay wanted to make sure that a full scholarship package would be offered so that she could stay past her freshman year. “I worked hard to exhaust every scholarship opportunity we had to keep Tharanga at Converse,” Hay said. “We finally found an anonymous donor who also recognized her vocal talent, and felt that keeping her at Converse was a wise move.”
the course is just enough to give the students a taste for working with clay. For many of the students, eye coordination is the first hurdle to overcome as most are accustomed to working in two-dimensional mediums. Before taking part in the course, art therapy major Catherine Rowland ‘06 had worked strictly with painting and charcoal drawing. “I had never worked in three-dimensional art before,” she says. “In clay sculpture, the artist is forced to pay great attention to the smallest detail. For example, to get a shadow effect in a drawing, an artist simply draws a shadow. But in sculpture, the actual cause of a shadow - such as an indentation or body part - must be taken into account.”

As Opal continues to sit fixated in his chair, students approach him and measure the exact distance of his temples from his ear lobe, and precise length of his nose. Lalage Warrington, who has been teaching clay sculpture for more than 15 years, emphasizes that exact precision is key in sculpture. “A sculpture artist,” she explains, “must take account of every feature of the modeled. Every curve and every edge, no matter how insignificant it may seem, will have an effect on the way the subject appears.”

Sculpture instructor Lalage Warrington (center) assists students in the Figurative Clay Modeling class as model Opal Huff maintains his fixed pose.

Mayo Mac Boggs, Sculpture Professor and Chair of the Department of Art and Design, has designed the clay sculpture course to be the first course of a bronze-casting program. “Having a small bronze foundry as an integral part of this experience is an invaluable opportunity for our art students,” he said. “If our students want to pursue cast bronze sculpture after college, they must know the process and language of the business. I think it is absolutely essential for our students to have the tools they need to successfully compete in the male-dominated field of the bronze foundry.”

At 3:00 in the afternoon, Spartanburg resident Opal Huff walks into studio 104 of the Milliken Fine Arts Building, politely greets everyone, and then takes his seat in the center of the room. For the next few hours, he will stare straight ahead, trying to move as little as possible as he is surrounded by Converse students determined to model his image into a mound of clay.

The course is entitled Figurative Clay Modeling, and has been a Winter Term offering at Converse for the last several years. It is divided into two sections, both of which are taught by professional sculptors. During the first section, Lalage Warrington leads the students into a concentrated session devoted to the structures of the human skull and face. Winston Wingo takes over for the second half of the course, and guides sculpting of the human figure with the help of another live model.

“Sculpting the human body with an in-studio model is essential to understanding art in three-dimensional form,” said Wingo, who has studied sculpture extensively in Italy, and has had works displayed throughout the US. “In this course, our students are able to stretch their understanding of additive and subtractive techniques.”

Because Winter Term is shorter than the other academic calendars, the students can only spend a few weeks in the studio and must focus on the essential aspects of the human form. The clay sculptures are then cast in bronze, providing the students with a lasting representation of their work.

Throughout the summer of 2002, four Converse College students rolled up their sleeves and dove headfirst into various thought-provoking areas of research. Topics included Indochinese immigrants, health care for rural women, fish parasites, and the life of a medieval saint. The research projects, funded by South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (SCICU), were collaborative in nature as the students teamed with Converse faculty members.

Kristen Arthur ‘05 of Cleveland, SC, collaborated with Dr. Jeff Dunn, Chair of History and Politics, to study the Cambodian population in Spartanburg.

“In the mid 1970s, a large group of Indochinese faced political oppression as Communist groups came to power and the Vietnam War ensued. Cambodians, Laotians, Vietnamese, and Hmong escaped these conditions and came to America. Though often unnoticed, many of these Indochinese groups have settled in Spartanburg. Through my research, I spent a great deal of time getting to know many of these people.

When the Indochinese arrived in the US, they immediately had to adjust to a culture very different from their own. Those who could not adjust to the culture shock often alienated themselves and formed small ethnic enclaves. As the first generation of immigrants has grown older and has had children here in the US, a generational conflict has developed. The members of the first generation want their children to remember and respect Southeast Asian values, but, having grown up in the US, the younger generations are striving to be more Americanized. The difference in viewpoints is leading to a communication block between the generations.”

Heather Barclay ‘03 of Florence, SC, teamed with Dr. Corrie Norman, Assistant Professor of Religion, to explore the life of the late medieval saint Francesco Romano. All of Heather’s work was completed in Rome, Italy:

“For six months, I conducted primary text research in the Vatican, Marco Besso, Angelica, and National libraries while exploring numerous churches and museums in search of 17th century images depicting the life of Saint Francesca Romana. My primary goal was to explore her changing image as a model of female religious devotion in the years from her death in 1440 to her canonization in the 17th century.

Through the numerous texts and images, I was able to document Francesca’s roles as earthly mother and holy mother to the order of Oblates she founded, wife of a Roman nobleman and bride of Christ in her visions, humble caregiver of the poor in her home, and priest-like miraculous feeder in her convent.”

Tiffany Simons ‘05 of Cleveland, TN, worked with Dr. Bob Muzzy, Chair of Sociology and Information Science, to study health care for rural women in her home state:

“I found that women’s health care is very poor in the four counties I studied. Of the four counties, only two have hospitals and there is less than one health care professional per 1000 women in all four counties. The infant mortality rate and the rate of low birth weight are also high in all four counties. Both rates are used as a measurement of the quality of health care.

My research found that even though women of childbearing age, 15-44 years old, make up a significant percentage of the population in rural counties, they are not provided with adequate health care to meet their needs. It is not only the counties I studied that showed this problem, Tennessee as a whole is suffering from inadequate health care, particularly in the areas of Obstetrics and Gynecology.”

Toni Hicks ’03 of Chesnee, SC, collaborated with Dr. Edna Steele, Assistant Professor of Biology, to study a parasite that affects certain fish:

“I studied a parasite known as Ascocotyle that infects the heart of a fish called the mummichog. To study this parasite this had on the mummichog’s heart, I used histology methods to obtain thin sections of both infected and uninfected hearts. I was only able to identify a few areas where the muscle fibers appeared to be stretched. In these areas, the muscle fibers appeared thinner and nuclei were elongated compared to those seen in the normal hearts.

The result of my project indicated that the morphological effect of the parasite on the mummichog’s heart was minimal. A possible explanation is that the bulbous arrowhead is an elastic part of the heart, so it may be able to stretch and accommodate the parasites without actually being damaged. One last interesting part of my research was examining individual parasites obtained from the infected hearts. After removing the live parasites from their metacercarial cysts, we were able to identify the species as Ascocotyle tenaculums.”

Kristen Arthur ‘05 of Cleveland, SC, worked with Dr. P. Dunn, Chair of History and Politics.

Tiffany Simons ‘05 of Cleveland, TN, worked with Dr. Bob Muzzy, Chair of Sociology and Information Science.
Child Abuse and Neglect Class Offers Students Insightful Opportunity

By Kathryn Brackett ’03, Converse College Communications Intern

Children need to feel loved and safe in their own homes, but some aren’t so fortunate. Some children are frightened, neglected, even beaten. But what causes the abuse? What factors lead up to the violence? These are among several questions that Dr. Monica McCoy explores in her “Child Abuse and Neglect” class. No other schools in the area offer this course, but Converse students have the opportunity to explore the topic every winter term.

“Child abuse is a common problem,” Dr. McCoy says. “My main goal is to correct misconceptions, to teach students to know the difference between an accident and abuse.” In 1999-2000, 8,365 investigations of reported abuse or neglect took place in the Palmetto State. Evidence was found to support 7,065 of those cases. Dr. McCoy says “Everyone needs to be aware of the risk factors.”

Students apply what they learn through videos, pictures, reaction papers, and news coverage. In one reaction paper, students write a response to the movie Bastard Out of Carolina, a film based on Dorothy Allison’s novel. They write from a personal opinion approach and support their views with current research and/or theory.

Over the course of six weeks, students explore a heartfelt yet important topic. They learn to approach child abuse with a meticulous eye and to make accurate conclusions based on factual information. In essence, and most importantly, students come away wearing a critical lens.

Converse Aims to Join Elite Ranks of Steinway Schools

The Petrie School of Music has embarked upon a course to become the 30th All Steinway School in the world, joining the likes of The Juilliard School, Yale, and Oberlin Conservatory. “Becoming an All Steinway School will define us as one of the premiere schools in the world for piano performance, quality, and music in general,” said Joseph Hopkins, Dean of The Petrie School of Music.

“We have met with Steinway representatives and created a plan to purchase 12 new Steinway pianos,” explains Dean Hopkins. “We have also made a commitment to create a maintenance endowment specifically for the Steinways; repair and rebuild studios, performance, and practice instruments; and purchase protective equipment for the instruments.” The school is seeking donor support to meet this need. Donor support can also be expressed through donations of Steinways or estate gifts.

Renowned sculptor artist Elliot Offner, president of the National Sculpture Society, served a two-week term as visiting artist for the Department of Art and Design. Offner instructed Converse art students and critiqued their work. He also presented a public slide lecture highlighting his thoughts on sculpture in the 20th century. Works by Offner are displayed in numerous public collections, including the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the Brooklyn Museum, and the Museum of Fine Arts in Springfield, MA. He has won prizes from the National Sculpture Society, the National Academy of Design, and the National Institute of Arts and Letters.


Students Learn from Renowned Sculptor and Internationally Acclaimed Author

Winter Term offers a special opportunity to plan student experiences that enhance classroom learning. While many students were participating in study/travel, those who remained at Converse had the opportunity to interact with two prestigious guest artists.

Elliot Offner, sculptor

Elliot Offner, president of the National Sculpture Society, served a two-week term as visiting artist for the

CLUB EVENTS

Greensboro, NC
October 10, 2002
Alumnae met for lunch at the City Club.

Gastonia, NC
October 23, 2002
Alumnae met for lunch at the City Club.

Mark 70, Book Lovers’ 91, Alfred Simple, Lottie Payne, Polly Doby Jenkins ’82, Polly Butler Duvall ’61, Gilian “Sibi” Smuck ’72 and her sister, Robin Smuck Davis ’61, hosted. Polly Doby Jenkins ’82, hosted.

The Converse Club Chair in Gaston.”

Elliot Offner, sculptor

Elliot Offner, president of the National Sculpture Society, served a two-week term as visiting artist for the Department of Art and Design. Offner instructed Converse art students and critiqued their work. He also presented a public slide lecture highlighting his thoughts on sculpture in the 20th century. Works by Offner are displayed in numerous public collections, including the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the Brooklyn Museum, and the Museum of Fine Arts in Springfield, MA. He has won prizes from the National Sculpture Society, the National Academy of Design, and the National Institute of Arts and Letters.

In 2004-05, Converse College will initiate a new academic calendar. The two regular terms (fall and spring) will be lengthened to allow for up to 14 weeks of classes, while the winter session will be trimmed to four weeks and become formally known as the January Term.

“The new start date for the fall term brings us in line with other colleges and universities,” said Dr. Jeff Barker, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “This will allow us to more easily pursue joint study/travel and other collaborative arrangements.”

THE NEW CALENDAR AT A GLANCE:
• Fall Term will begin approximately one week after Labor Day with exams being taken Monday-Thursday in the third week of December. Winter Break will begin at the end of exams, and will extend through Jan. 2.
• January Term will begin around Jan. 4 and continue for 20 class days. The 20-day period includes time for exams. The standard course load for students in the January Term will be one four-credit-hour course. Students may take up to five credit hours, with a combination of one, two, three, and four-credit-hour courses. Faculty members are encouraged to experiment with innovative teaching styles and topics in designing courses for the January Term, as this will be an excellent time to offer interdisciplinary and team-taught courses.
• Spring Term will begin on or about Feb. 2, and will end on the Friday of the second week in May. Reading Days will be observed that weekend, and exams will be held Monday-Thursday the following week. Commencement Weekend will take place on the weekend following the end of exams.
• Other advantages of the new system include:
  • More contact hours, class sessions, and instructional weeks in the regular terms;
  • Increased variety of innovative courses during the January Term;
  • An improvement in the academic experience for the student as she takes a normal course load of one four-hour course during the January Term;
• The opportunity for new course offerings in the January Term by faculty members.

The 2003-04 academic year will serve as a transition year for the school calendar. “During this time,” says Dr. Barker, “the faculty members will need to encourage and assist in the development of courses for the January Term. They will need to examine the student course load issues. In particular, it will be necessary to adjust the normal student load and conditions for student overloads so that students will be able to complete the credit-hour requirements for degrees in four years.”

Converse Partners to Help International Students

The Ford Foundation of New York has awarded four women's colleges a grant of $92,125 to identify urgent problems faced by international students. Converse College, Salem Academy and College, Agnes Scott College, and Bennett College will take part in the collaborative project.

“International students continue to face barriers as they seek access to higher education here in America,” said Converse President Nancy Gray. “These barriers, which are even stronger with recent global events, sometimes actually prevent international students from enrolling at American colleges and universities.”

The college presidents will work together to identify urgent issues and seek solutions to problems involving the matriculation of international students. They will share their findings with other colleges and universities and will provide advocacy on behalf of international women students.

Emphasizing the importance of helping female students in particular, President Gray said, “Educated women have more opportunities, have confidence to compete in the workplace, and make more informed decisions.”

Converse Alumnae Share Memories of War

By Courtenay Mims ’04, Converse College Communications Intern

On March 3, Mrs. Besbie Rice Ball ’44, Mrs. Virginia Manning Moses ’44, and Mrs. Ann Davidson Marion ’47 shared their experiences from World War II with current Converse faculty and students. These wartime experiences helped students to understand the impact a war might have on our lives.

“The students of today have read more and seen more pictures of war than we were ever exposed to,” said Besbie, who played for the USO (United Service Organizations) as an accompanist in Japan and the Philippine Islands. “I have lived through wars, but these girls have never done this before.”

While she was a student, Ann also supported the war effort by becoming a member of the Converse College Auxiliary Corps. The purpose of this organization was to organize all activities connected with the war on campus. “We looked to the upperclassmen for support during this unsure time,” said Ann. “Most everyone knew someone in the service.”

Charting New Territory: The Individualized Major

Individualized Majors (IM) are becoming popular at many colleges throughout the country because they offer students the opportunity to create a customized liberal arts education that fits their career goals and interests. IM will be available to Converse students at the beginning of the 2003-04 academic year.

Students with interdisciplinary academic interests that are linked in three or more departments may design a degree program that reflects their interests. This opportunity is for highly motivated students who will work with their academic advisors to establish the curriculum. They must also receive the approval of the department chairs in the areas of study. The Curriculum Committee will have final approval of an IM candidate. IM students will be encouraged to incorporate collaborative undergraduate research and honors work into their course of study.
Meet Andrew Watkins, Director of Development

Andrew Watkins joined the Converse College community as Director of Development in November of 2002. “I am excited to join the team at Converse,” he said. “The philanthropic support of Converse’s alumnae and friends is amazing, and I am honored to have the opportunity to work with so many extraordinary people.”

Prior to Converse, Andrew served as Director of Development for Student Affairs at Clemson University, where he took leadership roles in securing private funding initiatives for The Michelin Career Center and The IKEA Fund. Prior to Clemson, Andrew worked at Limestone College and Walt Disney World. He received his Master’s in University Administration as well as his Bachelor of Science in Economics and Political Science from South Carolina State University. Andrew’s wife, Kristin, has been Assistant Dean of Students at Converse for four years. Andrew likes to play the guitar, compete in marathons, play with his toddler, and looks forward to redeveloping his neighbor’s home in April (look for Andrew and Kristin on The Learning Channel’s “Trading Spaces” on June 28, 2003).

Welcome Andrew to Converse when you meet him at an upcoming Converse event!

Andrew Watkins
Director of Development
Converse College
580 E. Main Street
Spartanburg, SC  29302
(864) 596-9018
awatkins@converse.edu

For many who love Converse College, there comes a time when their thoughts turn to the future of the college and their role in ensuring the continuity of the Converse tradition. These thoughts may be stimulated by a class reunion, a gathering of Converse friends, or even preparations for retirement. Whatever the cause, people so moved inevitably ask themselves “how can I make a lasting and meaningful contribution to Converse?”

For many Converse alumnae and friends, the most practical and satisfactory way to provide for the College is through your will. A bequest allows you to retain full control of your assets, but also gives you the satisfaction of knowing that Converse will eventually benefit from your generosity.

To include Converse in your will, first talk with your attorney, who can provide advice on the specific wording of your bequest. Second, contact Converse College’s Office of Development and let us know you have included Converse in your will. We will send you a form to complete that tells us how you want us to use your gift. We will also ask you to include a copy of the relevant part of the will - just the part that addresses what you are doing for Converse. The third step is to mail it all back to us. The fourth and final part of the will process is the feel-good part. You should feel great about doing something this wonderful for Converse.

In conclusion, a great way to make an important statement for Converse is to include the college in your will. You should talk with your attorney, and let the development office know of your plans. When you’ve done all of these things, Converse College will recognize you in the Legacy Society. And if you do this before June 30, 2003, you will be given credit for making a planned gift in the Campaign for Converse.

Thank you for thinking of Converse College.

Andrew Watkins
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Note: Prospective donors should not make final gift decisions without first consulting their personal legal and financial advisors.
Call for Nominations: VP of Institutional Advancement

This position reports to the President and will directly manage the areas of Communications, Alumnae, and Development. A bachelor’s degree is required along with experience in leading an advancement team, a record of successful fund raising and management, excellent interpersonal and organizational skills, and an understanding of a small women’s college. An advanced degree is preferred. This position is responsible for completing a successful comprehensive campaign with $75 million now raised and for planning, organizing, and implementing the future college fund raising efforts. To apply or nominate an individual for this position, please contact Human Resources at HR@converse.edu.

Alumnae Board Reaches Out to Converse Students in Need

The Alumnae Board is making an important impact in the lives of several Converse students. During the fall and winter terms, 11 students who had special circumstances of financial need were helped by funds raised during a silent auction held by the Alumnae Board at meetings last year and this year. Each member of the board contributed one item that others could buy at the auction.

A few examples of this fund’s impact are: an undergraduate student who does not have insurance was helped to purchase a prescription following a medical emergency; a student received help with book purchases after her father lost his job; a single mother who has recently had difficulty collecting child support received help purchasing textbooks for her Converse II classes; a commuting student who is completing her education despite a very difficult personal situation was assisted with book funds.

“The silent auction was an opportunity to do something for Converse that goes beyond the traditional extent of board support,” said Elise Warren, president of the Alumnae Association. “The stories of those we have helped have touched all of us deeply, and we plan to continue this new tradition annually at our meetings.”

CLUB EVENTS

Following are a list of alumnae events from which no photos are available:

Converse-Wofford Hospitality Tent October 5, 2002
For Wofford’s Homecoming Weekend, Converse-Wofford couples met between Old Main and the Millikan Science Building on the Wofford campus.

Natchitoches, LA December 2, 2002
President Nancy Gray hosted a drop-in for alumnae and friends before “The Festival of Lessons and Carols” in Main Hall.

Dallas, TX December 6, 2002
Sid and Kay Ferguson Their hosted a wine and cheese party in their home. President Nancy Gray attended.

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Dear Friends,

It is spring...time for reaffirming our sense of possibility. As I write my last column as a Converse association president, I reflect on the past few years at Converse and am filled with pride to have witnessed what has been accomplished here. We are in the midst of a great renaissance and are truly building for the future. Our alma mater has been revitalized!

In these final few months of our campaign, it is important for Converse to have your personal commitment of support. Every gift of every size makes a difference. Please be generous so that we can reach our goals. With your help we will succeed!

Every institution needs a strong foundation and we, the alumnae, must provide the strength. We build upon a grand tradition. Your loyalty, dedication and involvement strengthen our future and growth in both facilities and potential students. We must all be ambassadors for Converse College every day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Converse alumnae for their support and friendships during my term as president. The alumnae board and the alumnae office staff have been incredibly active and given countless hours of hard work to support our College. As Winston Churchill once said, “We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.” Take every chance to show your feelings and love for our alma mater. Join us as we “spring” into the future for generations to come! Our journey into the future will be very special for all involved.

Help Converse reach her greatest potential!

Fondly,
Elise
Byah has three daughters (Byah, Kent, and Margaret Ann) and two sons (Sandy and Jim). The husband worked in the plywood and manufacturing business. While in Fayetteville, Byah was a tireless advocate for Converse. As area representative for recruiting students to Converse, it was not unusual for her to host Fayetteville area high school students in her home to tell them of the opportunities the college presented. She also played a key role in a capital-campaign during O.C. Carmichael’s administration, with four North Carolina counties contributing. While on a trip to Spartanburg in 1983, she joined the Friends of the Petre School of Music and made some aerial tours specifically for the performances of the Spartanburg Symphony. Betty Eppes Ford was one of the first alumnae to hold as their ideal. Alumnae who clearly represent women of the Church.

For her active involvement in church music and her deep commitment to the arts, Wallace Eppes Johnson ’63 is the recipient of the Community Service Award.

Byah has served as area representative for recruiting students to Converse, and was one of the first alumnae to hold the position. She is the recipient of the Converse Star Award for her embodiment of the qualities of character and achievement that Converse alumnae hold as their ideal.

Each year, Converse selects an alumna who has dedicated herself to excellence in her profession, and has distinguished herself by notable achievement over a continual period of time. As a 1974-1975 Resident Fellow of the Converse theatre tradition, Susan Marrash-Minnerly has continued to devote her life to theatre and its various aspects.

For her active involvement in her church and the arts, and state, Wallace Eppes Johnson ’63 is the recipient of the Community Service Award.

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2003 ALUMNAE BOARD SLATE

MUSIC SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE
BERRY BATE ’75
Asheville, NC
Development Committee member. Converse Alumnae Association, Sculptor in iron, copper, and bronze. 1990 Career Achievement Award recipient.

REPRESENTATIVE BERRY BATE ’75
Asheville, NC
Development
1990 Career
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·  1990 Career
·  Sculptor in iron,
   copper, and bronze
·  Converse Alumnae Association
·  Committee member,
   Achievement Award

80'S DECADE REPRESENTATIVE
ELIZABETH BLANCHARD JOYCE ’89
Spartanburg, SC
· President, Spartanburg County Medical Alliance.
· BA, MED, ED.S from Converse.

60'S DECADE REPRESENTATIVE
BETTY JO PUTNAM CARPENTER ’59
Florence, SC
· President, Board of Trustees of the American Red Cross.
· Member, Junior League of Florence.

70'S DECADE REPRESENTATIVE
DIXIE BAIN COTE ’79
Spartanburg, SC
· Former Chair, Development Corporation.
· Farmer Alumni Association of Converse College. Board Member at Large.

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· Former Placement Chair, Recognition Committee. Award Winner 1991.

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· BA, MED, ED.S from Converse.

90'S DECADE REPRESENTATIVE
CARRIE HILL COLEMAN ’96
Spartanburg, SC
· Principal, Jonesville Elementary School.

60'S DECADE REPRESENTATIVE
PARKER CRUSH ’58
Florence, SC
· President, Charles Ingram Lumber Company. Member, McLeod Foundation Board of Trustees and Guest House Committee, Member, Spartanburg County Medical Alliance.
· BA, MED, ED.S from Converse.

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25
IN MEMORIAM

2002
Bernice HASelden Berry ’22, November 29, 2002.
Samantha FitzPatrick ’23, October 15, 2002.
Sarah Eliza SWYGERT ’26, October 12, 2002.
Maria Francis WALKER Moore ’26, December 14, 2002.
Edith WINTON Cavenagh ’27, November 27, 2002.
Elizabeth ESKew Nuckolls ’27, October 11, 2002.
Rebecca JONES Nisket ’29, November 12, 2002.
Belva HUDSON Austell ’34, June 4, 2002.
Mary Lowndes BARRON Smith ’33, November 23, 2002.
Elizabeth ESKEW Nuckolls ’27, October 11, 2002.
Sarah Eliza SWYGERT ’26, September 29, 2002.
Bernice HASELDEN Berry ’22, November 2002.
Grace MERCER Ginn ’59, November 3, 2002.
Peggy POOLE Zeigler ’54, November 18, 2002.
Kathleen Louise HARRY ’00 to Rex Alderman Maynard, Jr., 2002.
Lydia Yee Wong, November 12, 2002.
Belva HUDSON Austell ’34, June 4, 2002.
Sharon Jane SIMMONS ’01 to Jonathan Blake Mahony, December 7, 2002.
Kathleen Louise HARRY ’00 to Rex Alderman Maynard, Jr., 2002.
Elizabeth FEATHERSTON Riggs ’90, Legal Representative, AERIE

LIFE EVENTS

2002
Elizabeth MARY ’96 to M. R. 2002.
Samantha (Smith) LANDRETH ’99, Legal Representative, AERIE

ADVANCED DEGREES
Shaye ABELOK ’98, Master of Education in Instructional Technology, University of Georgia, May 2002.
Christine CHRISTIANY ’98, Educational Specialist, Sanford University, December 2002.
Marianna Fawcett Converse, September 21, 2002, daughter of Justin and Anna HABERSTEIN-COVINGTON ’98.
Jacob Todd Smith, February 7, 2002, son of Teresa and Jill Smith.
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HONOR & MEMORIAL GIFTS

FACULTY
Dr. Anita Davis (Education), has a new book titled North Carolina Shaping the Great Depression: A Documentary Portrait of a Decade. Her book, The Depression and the American Dream: Lending a Hand, was the lead article in the current issue of The Journal of Political Science. He served as Chair and Commentator of session "Very Deliberate Speed: The Response to Brown vs. Board of Education, 1954-1975." Double Citation on the cover of the program for the South Carolina Civic Center March 20, 2003. Dr. Perry Brown has been nominated to compete at the regional Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in New York. His book, "Just Like Job," was written by Dr. Scott Robbins (Music), received first prize in vocal music in the 2002 Composers Guild International Competition. Featuring Maya Angelou's poem of the same name, the work was performed by the South Carolina Music Teachers Association and presented at Furman University in 2003 by Petie Smith of Music faculty members. The "Wounds We Live In," featuring music by Scott Robbins and poetry by Rick Mulroy (English) was performed in January at the Florida State University. The final Biennial Festival of New Music was held in March, the last of the most prominent contemporary music festivals in the United States.

Dr. Woodrow Hughes (Economics and Business) was selected for participation in the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program. The title of the program is "East Central Europe and the European Union: A Case Study of Poland as a Leading Candidate for Membership." The group will visit seven cities in Poland this summer to discuss the topics with Polish scholars, business leaders, financial sector analysts, public officials, and others.

STUDENTS
The following Converse seniors have been recognized by Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities: Ashleigh Baik, Heather Barlow, Valerie Brock, Melanie Brown, Andrea Ezell, Kristi Faye, Kato Ford, Holly Gilmore, Chantel McNeil, Maria Perry, Avery Tomlinson, and Carrie Tucker.

Several Converse students were recognized during the South Carolina Theatre Association convention (SCTA) and the state-level Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. The national competition, held in Charlotte, North Carolina. The second person in the state to receive this award. Her book, "Citadel Conference on The Twenty-first Century," is also a new book titled "Teaching Islamic and Middle Eastern History," by Petrie School of Music faculty members. "The Wounds We Live In," featuring music by Scott Robbins and poetry by Rick Mulroy (English) was performed in January at the Florida State University. The final Biennial Festival of New Music was held in March, the last of the most prominent contemporary music festivals in the United States.

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You won’t send the news out
Of what happens to you
But I keep on telling
Of what happens to you
You won’t send me the news
My body is so old
So I keep on telling
That you are so busy
You won’t send me the news
I am so old
But I keep on telling
That you are so busy
You won’t send me the news
Betty Lewis Burnett
Atlanta House and life magazine, and they have two grandchildren, age 5 and 10. Brookie is an athlete and has been known to do her homework in the bathtub. She also loves to play basketball and soccer. When Brookie is not playing sports, she enjoys watching television.
CLASS OF 1953
Alumnae Weekend, 2003
Representatives: Mrs. Ingra McGovern Sherrill and Mr. Robert Sherrill 114 Briarwood Court Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-585-8066 Convence Fund Class Chair: Mrs. Frances Kirkwood Graham

CLASS OF 1954
Next Reunion Alumnae Weekend, 2004 Representatives: Mrs. Betty Bomar and Mrs. Ida Rose Britton Dillon 4751 Blair Court Winston-Salem, NC, 27104, 336-784-4084 Convence Fund Class Chair: Mrs. Patricia Lampert.

CLASS OF 1955
Alumnae Weekend, 2006 Representatives: Mrs. Ida Rose Britton Dillon 4751 Blair Court Winston-Salem, NC, 27104, 336-784-4084 Mrs. Carolyn Fulmer Alexander 740 Kilbourne Road Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-585-2968 E-mail: argolfoicom@gmail.com Mrs. Jane K. Hill 4607 177th Avenue SE Bellevue, WA 98006, 425-622-0787 Convence Fund Class Chair: Mrs. Sally Mason Maynard

CLASS OF 1956
Alumnae Weekend, 2006 Representatives: Ms. M. Searle Rowland 35 Honeysuckle Woods Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-583-8066 Mrs. Carolyn Fulmer Alexander 740 Kilbourne Road Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-585-2968 E-mail: argolfoicom@gmail.com Mrs. Jane K. Hill 4607 177th Avenue SE Bellevue, WA 98006, 425-622-0787 Convence Fund Class Chair: Mrs. Sally Mason Maynard

CLASS OF 1957
Next Reunion Alumnae Weekend, 2007 Representatives: Mrs. Patsy Com McClain Lancaster Lane Florence, SC 29501, 803-469-6094 Mrs. Albert Bellinger 283 Molasses Lane Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464, 843-984-4001 Mrs. Carolyn Fulmer Alexander 740 Kilbourne Road Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-585-2968 E-mail: argolfoicom@gmail.com Mrs. Mary Lilibb Spillers Hamilton

CLASS OF 1958
Alumnae Weekend, 2003 Representatives: Mrs. Judy Brewer Bradshaw 1439 Winward Road Spartanburg, SC 29303, 864-585-2968 E-mail: argolfoicom@gmail.com Mrs. Jane K. Hill 4607 177th Avenue SE Bellevue, WA 98006, 425-622-0787 Convence Fund Class Chair: Ms. M. Searle Rowland

CLASS OF 1959
Next Reunion Alumnae Weekend, 2004 Representatives: Mrs. Anne Argo Sanders 1450 Willowfield Lane Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-585-2968 E-mail: argolfoicom@gmail.com Mrs. Jane K. Hill 4607 177th Avenue SE Bellevue, WA 98006, 425-622-0787 Convence Fund Class Chair: Mrs. Sally Mason Maynard

CLASS OF 1960
Next Reunion Alumnae Weekend, 2005 Representatives: Mrs. Donna Culbertson Fritz 105 Sunset Lane Spartanburg, SC 29303, 864-579-3996 E-mail: maxim891985@yahoo.com Convence Fund Class Chair: Mrs. Donna Culbertson Fritz

CLASS OF 1961
Next Reunion Alumnae Weekend, 2006 Representatives: Mrs. Betty Bomar and Mrs. Ida Rose Britton Dillon 4751 Blair Court Winston-Salem, NC, 27104, 336-784-4084 Mrs. Carolyn Fulmer Alexander 740 Kilbourne Road Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-585-2968 E-mail: argolfoicom@gmail.com Mrs. Jane K. Hill 4607 177th Avenue SE Bellevue, WA 98006, 425-622-0787 Convence Fund Class Chair: Mrs. Sally Mason Maynard

CLASS OF 1962
Next Reunion Alumnae Weekend, 2007 Representatives: Mrs. Betty Bomar and Mrs. Ida Rose Britton Dillon 4751 Blair Court Winston-Salem, NC, 27104, 336-784-4084 Mrs. Carolyn Fulmer Alexander 740 Kilbourne Road Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-585-2968 E-mail: argolfoicom@gmail.com Mrs. Jane K. Hill 4607 177th Avenue SE Bellevue, WA 98006, 425-622-0787 Convence Fund Class Chair: Mrs. Sally Mason Maynard

CLASS OF 1963
Next Reunion Alumnae Weekend, 2008 Representatives: Mrs. Betty Bomar and Mrs. Ida Rose Britton Dillon 4751 Blair Court Winston-Salem, NC, 27104, 336-784-4084 Mrs. Carolyn Fulmer Alexander 740 Kilbourne Road Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-585-2968 E-mail: argolfoicom@gmail.com Mrs. Jane K. Hill 4607 177th Avenue SE Bellevue, WA 98006, 425-622-0787 Convence Fund Class Chair: Mrs. Sally Mason Maynard

CLASS OF 1964
Next Reunion Alumnae Weekend, 2009 Representatives: Mrs. Betty Bomar and Mrs. Ida Rose Britton Dillon 4751 Blair Court Winston-Salem, NC, 27104, 336-784-4084 Mrs. Carolyn Fulmer Alexander 740 Kilbourne Road Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-585-2968 E-mail: argolfoicom@gmail.com Mrs. Jane K. Hill 4607 177th Avenue SE Bellevue, WA 98006, 425-622-0787 Convence Fund Class Chair: Mrs. Sally Mason Maynard

CLASS OF 1965
Next Reunion Alumnae Weekend, 2010 Representatives: Mrs. Betty Bomar and Mrs. Ida Rose Britton Dillon 4751 Blair Court Winston-Salem, NC, 27104, 336-784-4084 Mrs. Carolyn Fulmer Alexander 740 Kilbourne Road Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-585-2968 E-mail: argolfoicom@gmail.com Mrs. Jane K. Hill 4607 177th Avenue SE Bellevue, WA 98006, 425-622-0787 Convence Fund Class Chair: Mrs. Sally Mason Maynard

CLASS OF 1966
Next Reunion Alumnae Weekend, 2011 Representatives: Mrs. Betty Bomar and Mrs. Ida Rose Britton Dillon 4751 Blair Court Winston-Salem, NC, 27104, 336-784-4084 Mrs. Carolyn Fulmer Alexander 740 Kilbourne Road Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-585-2968 E-mail: argolfoicom@gmail.com Mrs. Jane K. Hill 4607 177th Avenue SE Bellevue, WA 98006, 425-622-0787 Convence Fund Class Chair: Mrs. Sally Mason Maynard

CLASS OF 1967
Next Reunion Alumnae Weekend, 2012 Representatives: Mrs. Betty Bomar and Mrs. Ida Rose Britton Dillon 4751 Blair Court Winston-Salem, NC, 27104, 336-784-4084 Mrs. Carolyn Fulmer Alexander 740 Kilbourne Road Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-585-2968 E-mail: argolfoicom@gmail.com Mrs. Jane K. Hill 4607 177th Avenue SE Bellevue, WA 98006, 425-622-0787 Convence Fund Class Chair: Mrs. Sally Mason Maynard

CLASS OF 1968
Next Reunion Alumnae Weekend, 2013 Representatives: Mrs. Betty Bomar and Mrs. Ida Rose Britton Dillon 4751 Blair Court Winston-Salem, NC, 27104, 336-784-4084 Mrs. Carolyn Fulmer Alexander 740 Kilbourne Road Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-585-2968 E-mail: argolfoicom@gmail.com Mrs. Jane K. Hill 4607 177th Avenue SE Bellevue, WA 98006, 425-622-0787 Convence Fund Class Chair: Mrs. Sally Mason Maynard

CLASS OF 1969
Next Reunion Alumnae Weekend, 2014 Representatives: Mrs. Betty Bomar and Mrs. Ida Rose Britton Dillon 4751 Blair Court Winston-Salem, NC, 27104, 336-784-4084 Mrs. Carolyn Fulmer Alexander 740 Kilbourne Road Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-585-2968 E-mail: argolfoicom@gmail.com Mrs. Jane K. Hill 4607 177th Avenue SE Bellevue, WA 98006, 425-622-0787 Convence Fund Class Chair: Mrs. Sally Mason Maynard

CLASS OF 1970
Next Reunion Alumnae Weekend, 2015 Representatives: Mrs. Betty Bomar and Mrs. Ida Rose Britton Dillon 4751 Blair Court Winston-Salem, NC, 27104, 336-784-4084 Mrs. Carolyn Fulmer Alexander 740 Kilbourne Road Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-585-2968 E-mail: argolfoicom@gmail.com Mrs. Jane K. Hill 4607 177th Avenue SE Bellevue, WA 98006, 425-622-0787 Convence Fund Class Chair: Mrs. Sally Mason Maynard

Anita Cary was surprised to learn from our December Wrap Up that she and her husband were married on the 10th of January, 2020. They have been married for 50 years now and are planning to celebrate with a trip to Europe next year. Anita and her husband are both retired and live in Spartanburg, South Carolina. They have visited there once a year since they were married in 1970. They love spending time together and enjoy traveling to different countries. Anita is retired from her job as a nurse and enjoys spending time with her family and friends. They have three children and ten grandchildren. They are frequently seen exploring the city together and enjoying all the activities that Spartanburg has to offer. Anita is an active member of the local Rotary Club and enjoys attending club meetings and events. She and her husband are also avid travelers and have visited many countries together. They enjoy trying new foods and experiencing different cultures. They have a love for adventure and enjoy exploring new destinations. Anita and her husband are planning to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary next year. They are looking forward to spending quality time together and creating new memories.
CLASS OF 1962
Next Reunion
Alumni Weekend, 2007
Representatives:
Muriel Crenshaw Stone
3410 Sunset Drive
Charleston, SC 29412, 803-762-0018
E-mail: murielcrenshaw@yahoo.com
Mrs. Maryコーヒー rejuvenate(2006) japan school 2006.04.16 (embassy) fukuda e-mail: kofuda-mi@nifty.com

Class Notes
McMillin Van Winkle
ing day freshman year. His father’s movie tapes were recently put on

Gribble Hotard, born last February. Her fourth book, Kosztolnyik Waterfall in Vermont, and in April, traveled to Italy.

Mrs. Betsy Blythe Frazer SC, for the January wedding of Hayes and husband Bob have

Richard had dated in college and were reunited after 18 years in Myrtle Beach, SC. She says she loves teaching and has had the advantage of watching Coastal Carolina’s exciting growth. She is looking forward to retirement with Myrtle Beach able to spend lots of time with her children and grandchildren! Son Thad was married last summer in Austin. Six-year-old grandchildren to their farms in eastern North Carolina. The newlyweds are in High Point, NC, where he enjoys selling furniture for Crates. If you are looking for furniture, advise him and he will give you the best price. He also delivers furniture, and plans to begin a retirement career in mediation.

Firm and plans to begin a retirement career in mediation.

and husband Bob have

and retired at 2:00 AM, but the party continued for another two hours!”

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Mrs. Maryコーヒー rejuvenate(2006) japan school 2006.04.16 (embassy) fukuda e-mail: kofuda-mi@nifty.com

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I’m looking forward to sharing both current events and fond memories with you, April 26 at our 35th reunion. It’s hard to believe that April 26, 1969, was the first time I opened windows and doors of opportunity for our successors. You know you are so much a part of who we are today, and a part of the heritage of this college. Mrs. Buckner, keeper of the golden keys and custodian of our legacy, was still in charge those years ago. Converse was a part of our maturation, and I’ll be thrilled for you and your spouse, significant other, or friend to join us for a delightful trip down Memory Lane. Our class reunion will be the last day of your class president. I enjoyed staying in touch with you for the past five years, and I wish you all health, happiness and love. Martha Regan Seazan has a new position at the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, National Library of Medicine. After 30 years with NASA she trained as a librarian in Washington, D.C. and now works as a Librarian and researcher with a focus on aeronautics and space publications, along with maintaining the library’s collection of books, journals, periodicals, and digital resources. I will be in touch with some of you via email and others in person. For those of you in the Carolinas, you will remember that December gave us a horrific ice storm on the same weekend as the wedding of my son William. It was a ‘96 Converse graduate, and family took it all in stride, except for the storm-on the same weekend as the wedding of Nat Husted’s daughter. Catherine, her son Billy is completing a fellowship at Duke University. Both are my goddaughters, I keep up with them through emails, conversations and phone calls. Betty Lou Stringer Walston is one of the models at the Greensboro alumnus chapter event held at Mack and Mack headquarters. A card from Lynda “Smitty” Smith Swab showed a happy birthday to her daughter. Khan’s husband, Keith is in Richmond, VA. Son Keith Jr. (26) is working at Circuit City’s corporate office in Richmond and son Scott (24) is working in the IT department at Forest Bowman Gray campus. As for me, I am happy to be back in town with Habitat for Humanity, teaching church school, and serving on the Session at church. Life is not always perfect, but the love and support of my family is a blessing. I will continue to post this column in every issue because I have no less than 102 happy birthday cards, 79 holiday cards. Please send me a note or an E-mail (note now I have an E-mail address!) and let me know how you are doing. You can always call me at 704-947-3366, and I’ll be able to do a column for the next issue.

As I write this column in early January, I am wishing each of you a year filled with good health, happiness and all the things you desire most. A lot of this news was gathered from holiday cards and/or email from classmates. Betty Lou Stringer Walston’s photo was taken at a ‘96 Converse graduate, and family took it all in stride, except for the storm-on the same weekend as the wedding of Nat Husted’s daughter. Catherine, her son Billy is completing a fellowship at Duke University. Both are my goddaughters, I keep up with them through emails, conversations and phone calls. Betty Lou Stringer Walston is one of the models at the Greensboro alumnus chapter event held at Mack and Mack headquarters. A card from Lynda “Smitty” Smith Swab showed a happy birthday to her daughter. Khan’s husband, Keith is in Richmond, VA. Son Keith Jr. (26) is working at Circuit City’s corporate office in Richmond and son Scott (24) is working in the IT department at Forest Bowman Gray campus. As for me, I am happy to be back in town with Habitat for Humanity, teaching church school, and serving on the Session at church. Life is not always perfect, but the love and support of my family is a blessing. I will continue to post this column in every issue because I have no less than 102 happy birthday cards, 79 holiday cards. Please send me a note or an E-mail (note now I have an E-mail address!) and let me know how you are doing. You can always call me at 704-947-3366, and I’ll be able to do a column for the next issue.

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We hope that the weekend of April 25-27 is on your calendar and that you will gather with Converse to celebrate our 30th reunion! The detailed information was mailed to you a number of weeks ago. Mary Nell Engler Rodgers Brandt has graciously agreed to host our class dinner Saturday night and there will be many other fun events and performance from Goldman Sachs. Rodgers Brandt at the forefront of a reawakening for the city of Birmingham, Alabama. Under her leadership, the company has rededicated properties and buildings that were virtually abandoned not too long ago. "I love cities," she says. "I believe cities are the best representation of civilization because they are where people come together." Among the early projects for the Slow Group was Pepper Place, an old building previously used to make syrup for sale. It has since grown into a market center of eleven buildings that houses shops, eateries, and a very popular market center of eleven buildings that houses shops, eateries, and a very popular market center of eleven buildings. John Sloss writes that daughter, Elizabeth, is a junior at A&M and her brother, Carrin, is a sophomore at SMU. They are both doing very well and are both interested in the possibility of pursuing a career in business. Converse Fund Chair Class: Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor Horner.

1973 CONVERSATION CLASS PARTICIPATION: 130% 1980

Jackson Gandy sends news that daughter, Elizabeth, is a junior at A&M and her brother, Carrin, is a sophomore at SMU. They are both doing very well and are both interested in the possibility of pursuing a career in business. Converse Fund Group Chair: Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor Horner.
Happy spring, everybody! I certainly enjoyed all the holiday cards and letters and darling photos of everyone’s children. The prizes for longest letter goes to Becki Rand Barnett [5 Woodhill Road, Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-585-1009, E-mail: garyandcarla23@msn.com] who has a grandson that is 9 months old and her daughter’s boyfriend that is 6 months old! Her two grandchildren are both boys and they both love to play with toys and play with their dog (which I’m sure is very happy to be with them). They are definitely having a blast! The Converse Fund Class Chairs: Mrs. Kim Waugh Gravelle
For the Lexington, SC, born Dr. Cousar, majority of these procedures can be directly into the blood stream or so called central venous access, which is the radiology procedures include. “Interventional radiology provides an option other than open surgery for the patient,” explains Dr. Cousar. “We use X-rays, ultrasound, and other medical devices to diagnose diseases directly into problem areas. These procedures are generally easier for the patient because they involve no large incision, which means less post-operative pain and shorter recovery times.”

More common interventional radiology procedures include angiography to diagnose blockages and other blood vessel problems; sclerotherapy, the injection of a substance, which sclerosis of a varicose vein; and the insertion of a tube into the blood vessels into the brain to deliver clot-dissolving medication for the treatment of stroke.

Brenda Barron Geier and her family have moved to Clinton, SC. A veteran Furman community member, Brenda and her husband Mac, son Ben (3) and new baby Claire. They enjoyed the Furman experience and are looking forward to their Furman family events in the years to come.

We have heard from so many classmates—keep up the great work! Please continue to send us your updates and letter from Bartleson Spencer Bassett. She and husband Wyatt have been back in Winston-Salem, NC, for quite a while now. Mrs. Jennie Player Lambe (1882 Parrish Drive, Charlotte, NC 28211, 704-362-2402) is visiting regularly.

Andrea Hoover Burden (E-mail: DHoover@aol.com) reports that she and Rich have a full plate this Christmas season. They spent some talk time for a reunion and are looking forward to seeing each other. Susan Sanders Ford (Trussville, AL 35173, 205-467-0299) has promoted to Senior Technical Account Manager with Milliken Chemical in Trussville, AL.

Class of 1988

NOTES

For the Lexington, SC, born Dr. Cousar, her profession is the realization of a goal she’s had since childhood. “Even as a child, I knew I would go into medical school,” she says. “I was just drawn to helping people.” For now it involves seeing about 30 patients, analyzing over 360 X-rays of other patients, and consulting with other doctors who seek me advice.”

Christopher and Mary Margaret, and their two kids, King and Davis, bought a new home. They are planning a trip to South Carolina this summer for a vacation at the beach with fellow Furman Friends at Crystal Coast Motel. The home was built in 2003. They have been living in Atlanta and working for a textbook company. Candace is teaching with Katie Whitfield White who along with husband David and their three children also lives in the same neighborhood. Delia and her husband David are living in Atlanta and working for a textbook company. Delia and her husband David are living in Atlanta and working for a textbook company.

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Project Manager. I received a Christmas card from my husband, Brad, who is living in Chesnee, SC, where he is traveling quite a bit. She did get the chance to visit often. On a boat trip we took, we felt like we were in paradise. Claire said she loves the wonderful weather, great food, spectacular sights and friendly natives. Claire said she has rediscovered wheel-watching in her hometown of Athens, GA, and is working at Spunky Munky in Auburn, AL.

I truly apologize for the class notes (or lack thereof) in the last bulletin. At the time they were due I was concentrating on an upcoming trip to San Juan after the holidays. I have a beautiful brochure of her faux business, and splits her time between doing web design in New York. 

I received an adorable Christmas card from Bean Slack. He is doing well and is still working in California. She also has a beautiful brochure of her faux business, and splits her time between doing web design in New York.

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Becky Hoehn reports that she has opened a business in Port Royal Plantation at Hill’s Cove. Her business is Nick & Number One Island selling lampshades and quilting lamps. Stop in and visit her at the address. Ashley McClellan and daughter Olivia visited the States in January. They were able to get together with Ginger Davis and her little girl and Whitney Dinkard Warlick and her little boy for a visit in the States. Aly Moy Henley reports that Catherine is currently the attending emergency medical physician at Lincoln Memorial Hospital in Krankston, NC. Kathleen Mooney Bradshaw is volunteering with Ducks in a Row as a coordinator, consultant and instructional assistant in Chattanooga, TN. Husband Darryl is the manager of Busa’s, a family owned and operated restaurant that has been in operation since 1980.

CLASS OF 1996

Next Reunion Alumnae Weekend, 2005 Representatives: Mrs. Catherine Bradford Elliott 132 Stove Drive Charleston, SC 29421, 843-408-4851 E-mail: catherine.elliott58@gmail.com Mrs. Pam Hughes Foster 241 Charleston Hill Charleston, SC 29403, 843-765-7289 E-mail: pam@elliottalem.com Mrs. Jenny Wilkins 542 Palmetto Street #3 Spartanburg, SC 29303, 864-576-1069 E-mail: jenny@jwwilliams3@yahoo.com Converse Fund Class Chair: Mrs. Heidi Ruhl

1996 CLASS PARTICIPATION GOAL: 40%

Pam Hughes Foster received her pilot’s license in June and is now quotient in her airplane. She has also joined the Geoville Women’s Club and is looking forward to becoming active in their programs. Elizabeth McClean Brown just opened an interior design firm called Elizabeth McClean Brown and Company. She also spent time over the holidays with Meredith Cooley Brown and her brother. Meredith is still in her room for the time being in Spartanburg. Tia Nealy, Heather Stead and Minnie McGee traveled to Mobile, AL in February to see Allison Stafford Moseley and participate in the graduation ceremony of Allison’s baby to whom Heaven is mother. Heather also traveled to Charleston to spend a wedding weekend with Stephanie Nieves, Angela Gosnell, and Jennifer Jackson. Jennifer Jones Melick is enjoying her new job and her new job territory changed. Now she stays in the upticks instead of flying to California every week! In addition to teaching, Jennifer Nelson Cotts has begun her own business as an Independent Beauty Consultant with Mary Kay Cosmetics. Jennifer has begun designing work from home in October and wrapped up some major design projects in December. The family is settling in her new home and continues her work with the Home Schooling Association. Kristin Johnson, Leigh EDMond McLauren, and the kids are keeping busy in Converse Heights not far from our old home. Ms. Laura Vaugh Tuck enjoys a trip to Europe with her family over the holidays and said it was a wonderful break from teaching and volunteering. Our classmate Kristin Johnson, Leigh Cardinals McLauren, and the kids are keeping busy in Converse Heights not far from our old home. Ms. Laura Vaugh Tuck enjoys a trip to Europe with her family over the holidays and said it was a wonderful break from teaching and volunteering. Mrs. Amanda Pyles Denney is back after her family move far too soon.

CLASS OF 1997

Next Reunion Alumnae Weekend, 2005 Representatives: Mrs. Catherine Alexander Conover 490 Alkire Drive Mauldin, SC 29662, 864-214-7684 E-mail: conover@charter.net Mrs. Gretchen Baragen Bogwell 86 Thunder Ridge Lane Aiken, SC 29803, 803-957-9254 E-mail: gbarlagen@bellsouth.net Mrs. Shannon Gossnell Bishop 3546 Academia Road Spartanburg, SC 29301, 864-576-1069 E-mail: jenny@jwwilliams3@yahoo.com Converse Fund Class Chair: Mrs. Kim Varnadoe Bearden Converse Fund Class Chair: Mrs. Kim Varnadoe Bearden

1997 CLASS PARTICIPATION GOAL: 50%

Michelle Harris has moved on from her job at Bic to spend more time with daughter Catherine and work part-time at the Ben’s Bridal. Cat has purchased a home in Simpsonville, SC 29681, 864-963-9582

E-mail: Marina324@yahoo.com

CONVERSE class of 1995 Representative: Mrs. Catherine Bradford Elliott 132 Stove Drive Charleston, SC 29421, 843-408-4851 E-mail: catherine.elliott58@gmail.com

CONVERSE class of 1996 Representative: Mrs. Pam Hughes Foster 241 Charleston Hill Charleston, SC 29403, 864-576-1069 E-mail: jenny@jwwilliams3@yahoo.com

CONVERSE class of 1997 Representative: Mrs. Shannon Gossnell Bishop 3546 Academia Road Spartanburg, SC 29301, 864-576-1069
It was a busy summer for Carol Cancienne. After graduating with her Master’s from USC, she spent part of the summer in Birmingham, AL, doing an internship and the other part of the summer in Scotland babysitting several children and enjoying the beautiful Scottish countryside. She returned home to New Orleans and is a speech-language pathologist at an oral deaf school while working on yet another Master’s degree. We are glad to hear that Jaime Powell is recovering nicely in New Orleans after her accident. Beza Rowland Hyliman and her husband Zach are now in Lawton, OK, where he is enrolled in the Army Field Artillery’s Captain Career Course. They will be there until August when they will move to his new duty station. If you are still in Sparkle City, you may have seen me, Jennifer Nockels, in the Spartanburg Little Theater’s production of “The Curious Savage” in March. I had a wonderful time doing the play and hope to do more. Look forward to hearing from and about you.

CLASS OF 2000
Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2005
Representatives:
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Ms. Susanna Knight
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E-mail: susannaknight@hotmail.com
Ms. Kiley Rikard
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Converse Fund Class Chair:
Ms. Chanel Beck
CLASS OF 2001
Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2006
Representatives:
Ms. Laura Massey
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Ms. Stacey Mulligan
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Arlington, VA 22204
E-mail: staceymulligan@hotmail.com
Ms. Kathy Anne Poore
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E-mail: kathypoore18@hotmail.com
Converse Fund Class Chair:
Ms. Bridgitt Vergara

Spring salutations, Red Devils! Susan Powell is enjoying her interior design job at Workplace Strategies in Winston-Salem, NC, and is involved with IIDA and the Junior League. Cassandra Jeffries is interning with United States Magistrate Judge Stephen T. Brown this semester and has become a full member of the St. Thomas Law Review. Rebecca Crandall is on the Journal of Law & Technology and will be dividing her summer between two law firms—on the Journal of Law & Technology and will be dividing her summer between two law firms—on the Journal of Law & Technology and will be dividing her summer between two law firms—on the Journal of Law & Technology and will be dividing her summer between two law firms—on the Journal of Law & Technology and will be dividing her summer between two law firms—on the Journal of Law & Technology and will be dividing her summer between two law firms.

CLASS OF 2002
Alumnae Weekend, 2003
Representatives:
Ms. Delia G. Campbell
1824 Blackstock Road
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E-mail: converseclassof2002@yahoo.com
Ms. Erin Jennings
628 Magnolia Lane
Peachtree City, GA 30269
E-mail: manhattanbeau84@yahoo.com
Ms. Kathy Seay
304 Shelly Ridge Drive
Spartanburg, SC 29301, 864-494-3347
E-mail: kathy.seay@converse.edu
Converse Fund Class Chairs:
Ms. Sallie Legagne
Ms. Carrie Page

Hello, Pink Panthers! Thanks to everybody who replied to the E-mails! Sarah McMullen is working for an international adoption agency in Greenville, SC, as a case manager for their Guatemalan adoption program. She travels to Central America about once a month. Garrison Howard and Leigh Anne Mitchell are also living in Greenville, SC. Garrison is the music teacher at Mountain View Elementary School, and Leigh Anne is teaching sociology and world geography at L. Mann High School. Ellie Cook is working for Milliken in Pendleton, SC, and has recently moved from Greenville, SC, to Pendleton. Stephanie Roach is living in Georgia and working as the merchandising coordinator for Beauitful Rugs (Dalton, GA), which is a division of Springs. Inc. Elizabeth Osswald has been the pottery intern at the N.C. Pottery Center in Seagrove, NC, since June. Keely Olson is the office manager at Markey Group Incorporated in Savannah, MN; she is living in Minnesota but her heart is still in SC. Tiffany Thornton is living in New York and will be playing the role of Faye Templeton on the national tour of the musical “George M!”. The tour began on January 3 and will close in April. Michelle Evans Jarrett is a graduate assistant in the Petite School of Music and is pursuing a master of music degree in vocal performance from Converse. Amy Schmidt was featured in the Business News section of the November 2002 issue of Rug News magazine. She is a designer with Radii USA. Amanda Lenz is now in Costa Rica on her one year placement with World Teach sponsored by Harvard. She will be teaching English in a Spanish school and living with a Spanish-speaking family. Kate Landon and Kathy Seay are living in Boling Springs, SC. They have a new hobby-Jazzercise! Katie is an intern for Young Life in Spartanburg and is working with Dorman High School, Gable Middleschool, and Davis Middle School. Kathy is an admissions counselor at Converse. She spent almost eight weeks recruiting in Texas this fall and can’t wait to go back this spring! We hope to see each of you at our 1st reunion April 25-27!