

# L3

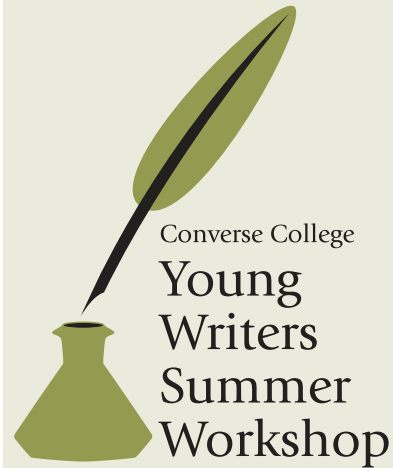
## Ladies Learning and Leading

June 5-8, 2006

Discover your unique leadership style at the "L3" summer program presented by the Daniels Center for Leadership and Service at Converse College:

- Get the skills to make a difference in your school and community.
- Make new friends with other teenage girls who are focused on becoming leaders.
- Experience the power of teamwork at its best.
- Learn from experienced college women who learn, serve and lead daily at Converse College.

Designed to enable tomorrow's women leaders, the residential camp promotes self-awareness and confidence among young women who will enter tenth grade in the fall of 2006.



June 11-16, 2006

Join a writing community of intellectually curious and motivated high school students to develop your talents in poetry, fiction and creative nonfiction. A limited, selective enrollment will ensure that participants receive personal attention. Students will receive instruction and critique from professional writers; learn techniques for successful writing, editing and publishing; and participate in a public reading of their work.

Energize your creativity and expand your skills while studying with professional artists during this coeducational, residential program for rising high school sophomores, juniors and seniors. Learn contemporary practices in drawing, printmaking and book arts from Converse art & design faculty in a studio environment.

- Learn alternative drawing techniques using a variety of media
- Explore silkscreen printmaking through direct drawing and photo emulsion processes
- Examine digital possibilities as they apply to drawing and printmaking media
- Install work in the Milliken Art Gallery for an end-of-the-week exhibition

## Converse College Summer Visual Arts Program An Exploration of the Paper Arts

June 11-16, 2006



Complete information and application materials are available online at [www.converse.edu](http://www.converse.edu).



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# CONVERSE

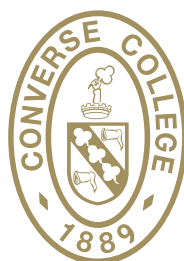
## BULLETIN

### SPRING 2006



*The  
Petrie School  
of Music*





Join Us!

A CELEBRATION OF LIFELONG LEARNING, LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE  
THE INAUGURATION OF ELIZABETH A. FLEMING  
AS NINTH PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2006  
11:30 AM  
Twichell Auditorium  
LUNCHEON IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

INAUGURATION EVENTS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, APRIL 26-27, 2006. THE EVENTS SCHEDULE AND ACCOMMODATIONS INFORMATION ARE POSTED AT [WWW.CONVERSE.EDU/INAUGURATION](http://WWW.CONVERSE.EDU/INAUGURATION). FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (864) 596-9018 OR E-MAIL [INAUGURATION@CONVERSE.EDU](mailto:INAUGURATION@CONVERSE.EDU).

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**On the Cover:**  
Danielle Gillespie '07 MMus of North Canton, Ohio (standing), sang the role of Susanna; and Taylor Johnson '07 BMus from Orangeburg SC (sitting), performed as the Countess in Converse Opera Theatre's production of The Marriage of Figaro. In this scene, they have just written a letter to the Count, setting him up for a rendezvous in the garden in which they plan to catch him in a compromising situation. See page 8 for more on the opera. Cover photo taken by Mark Olencki.

# CONVERSEBULLETIN

SPRING 2006

## THE TRADITIONS OF CONVERSE MUSIC



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Joe Hopkins with the All Steinway School Plaque



Steinway Artist Dr. Douglas Weeks (at piano) with Converse President Betsy Fleming, Dean Joseph Hopkins, Converse trustee Kurt Zimmerli, and Steinway & Sons President Bruce Stevens



More than a century of exceptional music and musicians bears testimony to the quality and influence of The Petrie School of Music at Converse College. With such a remarkable past, it is tempting not to tamper with the present, but Converse has an equally strong tradition of moving forward. The presence of a new visionary administration, increased enrollment in all areas of music and a growing register of support gives hope that we can step boldly into the future. It is time for the Petrie School to reassert its standing as one of the nation's finest schools of music and perhaps even move to an unprecedented standard of quality.

The past year has been one of the most stellar in the history of this fine School of Music. Students and faculty were featured in performance in Europe, North America, Central America, Africa and Asia. Alumnae performed with the Metropolitan Opera, great European companies, Broadway theatres and distinguished symphonies. Former students and faculty earned local and national recognition for excellence in teaching and musicianship.


In December, Steinway & Sons announced The Petrie School of Music as the 51st Steinway School (see page 4 for details). A major component of this effort was the renovation of our heating and cooling systems in Blackman Music Hall. Gifts will also support the repair of existing pianos and an endowment to maintain these instruments in perpetuity.

This winter Converse announced plans for the inaugural Harlaxton International Chamber Music Festival to be held in Lincolnshire, England May-June 2007. The Petrie School of Music will join forces with other recognized music institutions to create an extraordinary opportunity for college musicians, especially students from Converse. Participants will be coached by Converse and guest faculty for three weeks, and students and faculty will perform in some of England's most historic and cherished venues.

# The Traditions of Converse Music are Near Legendary

We joined forces with the Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra and Ballet Spartanburg for a televised performance of *Carmina Burana* March 24 and 25. Spring concerts feature the traditional music of Japan and Puerto Rico by some of those countries' finest artists and begin a series of international exchange opportunities for Converse faculty and students. In May we will host Miles Hoffman of NPR's "Performance Today" as guest artist-in-residence. He will make his conducting debut with our own Converse Symphony Orchestra. We will also bring acclaimed chamber musicians to our campus through the Friends of The Petrie School of Music organization and our Carlos Moseley Series.

We are proud of the students and faculty of The Petrie School of Music, and we are grateful for the partnership of our community who support these efforts. At the very foundation of these successes are our audience, alumnae and friends, sustaining the best in Converse music. Thank you for supporting Converse students, and thank you for supporting The Petrie School of Music – The First Choice for Women in Music.

  
Joe Hopkins  
Dean, Petrie School of Music



Henry Steinway, former president of Steinway & Sons and great grandson of Steinway founder Henry Steinway Sr., with Dr. Joseph Hopkins, dean of the Petrie School of Music, at Steinway Hall in Manhattan

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Without music, life would be a mistake," so claimed Friedrich Nietzsche, the renowned nineteenth-century German philosopher. So, too, is the attitude of the greater community of Converse College. Music enhances every aspect of campus life: a Steinway piano even graces the public space of the stunning, newly renovated Montgomery Student Center. How fortunate we are to have the excellence and inspiration of The Carroll McDaniel Petrie School of Music invigorating lives—past and present, on and off campus, youthful and mature! How thankful we are for the visionary leadership of Dr. Joseph Hopkins, dean of the Petrie School of Music!

While the Converse community has always appreciated the exceptional faculty, students and programs of the School of Music, the world at large has taken notice of late. On January 18, 2006 coinciding with Steinway Day celebrated by the international music industry, Converse College announced its position as the fifty-first institution in the world, and the only women's college, to achieve All-Steinway status in a full page message published in *The New York Times* and made possible through the generosity of five Converse College supporters. Recognition today grows from the achievements of those who precede us, particularly such

inspiring teachers as Alia Ross Lawson (1912 -2006), founder of Converse's Lawson Pre-College Program of Music and Dance. We dedicate this issue of the *Converse Bulletin* to Alia Lawson and her contagious passion for the arts.

  
Betsy Fleming  
President



# CONVERSE BECOMES FIRST WOMEN'S COLLEGE TO JOIN STEINWAY SCHOOL ROSTER

On December 14, Steinway & Sons president Bruce Stevens participated in a celebration in Blackman Music Hall where he named The Petrie School of Music at Converse as a Steinway School. Converse is the first women's college in the world to be awarded All-Steinway status and joins a select group of only 50 other Steinway colleges, conservatories and music schools worldwide. The Steinway roster includes The Juilliard School, Yale University's School of Music, The China Conservatory of Music and Oberlin College Conservatory. It is rare for a college as small as Converse to earn the Steinway status; other Steinway Schools in the Southeast have an enrollment of at least 15,000.

"By becoming a Steinway School, The Petrie School of Music at Converse has shown a commitment to its future by providing the best instruments

possible for its students and faculty, thereby insuring a legacy of distinction for generations to come," said Stevens. "Steinway & Sons is deeply honored that our instruments have been chosen to accompany Converse on this mission of excellence in music education."

News of Converse's Steinway status was announced to the nation in a full-page advertisement in *The New York Times*, made possible by several College supporters. The ad ran in the January 18 edition, coinciding with "Steinway Day" in the music industry.

The Petrie School effort to become eligible for Steinway status began in March 2004 with a \$1.3 million campaign. The campaign was led by Converse trustees Betty Montgomery '72 and Kurt Zimmerli. "The way that this project was embraced by such a

broad range of supporters was truly amazing and makes this an even more exceptional accomplishment," said Dr. Joseph Hopkins, dean of The Petrie School. "More than 80 individual gifts ranging up to \$100,000 from alumnae and friends of the College were made. 100% of the Petrie faculty and staff participated in the campaign."

The campaign enabled Converse to purchase 23 new Steinway manufactured pianos, restore many of the College's existing Steinways and create an endowment for maintenance of the pianos. Converse now has an inventory of 76 Steinway manufactured

instruments that will be housed in recital halls on the Converse campus, studios of music faculty and student practice rooms.

"Steinway is a powerful partner for The Petrie School as Converse strives to become the first choice for women in music," said President Betsy Fleming. "Since 1889, Converse has been a leader in preparing young artists for successful careers in music. Today there are few music schools in the world—and even fewer independent colleges—that can match our inventory of premier musical instruments."

Two of new pianos came in January 2005, when Kurt and Nelly Zimmerli took a personal approach to jumpstart the campaign. The Zimmerlis, along with a group from Converse, traveled to the Steinway factory in New York to select two Steinway pianos that the Zimmerlis would present to The Petrie School in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary. Personal selection of a Steinway piano is important because no two are exactly alike. While a piano can be tuned and adjusted, "the thing that can't be changed is its inherent quality," said Sally Coveleskie, Steinway's director of institutional sales. "You look for the voice of that particular piano." 🎹

The grand finale of the Steinway celebration concert was "Fantasie on Themes" from Bizet's *Carmen* for 16 hands on four pianos, performed by Dean Joe Hopkins, keyboard faculty and students.



## Douglas Weeks Named as Converse's First Steinway Artist

As Converse was named a Steinway School, Dr. Douglas Weeks, chair of performance and Babcock Professor of Piano, was named to the prestigious roster of Steinway Artists. Weeks is Converse's first faculty member to receive the honor. Acceptance into the worldwide Steinway Artist roster indicates high achievement in musical performance and reflects the musician's confidence in the Steinway piano.

Steinway Artists include Vladimir Ashkenazy, Van Cliburn, Billy Joel, Herbie Hancock, Peter Nero and Roger Williams. Irving Berlin, Duke Ellington, George Gershwin, Vladimir Horowitz, Ignace Paderewski, Cole Porter and Sergei Rachmaninoff were also included on the roster.

"I am honored to become a Steinway Artist," said Weeks, who has been playing piano for more than 50 years. He compares the excitement of playing a Steinway to driving a sports car. "It is sheer luxury and sounds so magnificent. You can make a Steinway sound however you wish: The notes can be lush and powerful or extremely soft because it is such a precise technical instrument."

Steinway works to ensure its artists are able to perform on Steinway pianos wherever they travel. "When I am scheduled to play at a particular venue that does not have a Steinway, the company will seek out the nearest Steinway dealership and arrange for a piano to be delivered. The only cost to the venue is the freight," said Weeks. 🎹



# "BECOMING AN ALL STEINWAY SCHOOL SHOWS THAT CONVERSE COLLEGE

IS SERIOUS ABOUT BEING THE FIRST CHOICE FOR WOMEN IN MUSIC."

- Dr. Joseph H. Hopkins, Dean, The Petrie School of Music at Converse College



On December 14, Steinway & Sons named The Petrie School of Music at Converse College to its esteemed list of All Steinway Schools. Converse is the first women's college in the nation - and the first college in the Carolinas - to receive this distinction, and joins a select group of only 50 All Steinway Schools worldwide.

Now with an inventory of 76 pianos designed by Steinway & Sons, The Petrie School of Music is making itself heard throughout the academic world. From its recital halls to its faculty



studios to its practice rooms, the incomparable Steinway sound fills the air.

"Steinway is a powerful partner for The Petrie School as Converse works to become the first choice for women in music," stated Betsy Fleming, President of Converse. "Since 1889, Converse

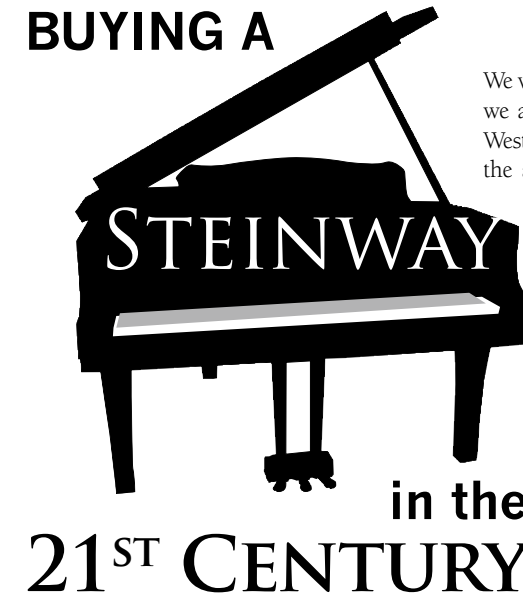
has been a leader in preparing young artists for successful careers in music. Today there are few music schools in the world - and even fewer independent colleges - that can match our inventory of premier musical instruments."

## STEINWAY & SONS

Steinway & Sons congratulates The Petrie School of Music at Converse College on its distinction of becoming an All Steinway School. Converse College • 580 East Main Street • Spartanburg, SC 29302 • (864) 596-9000 • [www.converse.edu](http://www.converse.edu)

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## BUYING A



by Dr. Melanie Foster Taylor,  
Associate Professor of Piano and Piano Pedagogy

Thanks to the big hearts of so many generous contributors, I recently had the privilege of traveling to the Steinway factory in New York City to select a new piano for my studio at Converse.

Traveling is not my favorite pastime, and New York is not my favorite place on earth. But I braved my fears for the thrill of solving the mystery: Which piano would become my new best friend? The very thought of an entire room full of sparkling-fresh Steinways from which I could choose my favorite set off Pavlovian responses. I could hardly wait to tickle those ivories.

As I set off on the journey, I could not help thinking about my dearly departed (over 30 years ago) father. He was a trained Steinway piano technician. Although he never worked at the New York factory, the guru of all piano technicians, William Braid White, trained him. I grew up with the smell of glue emanating from my father's downstairs workshop, numerous piano actions struggling through the backdoor, and a regular rotation of fine instruments adorning our living room and den. But it was his love of music itself that inspired me, and I think it's that way with most piano technicians and tuners. I was anxious to talk to the technicians at the mecca of piano production: The Steinway factory.

It was fun traveling with an entourage: Doug Weeks, Paula Morgan, Dean Joe and Suzanne Hopkins, Kurt Zimmerli and Pat Case (from Case Brothers in Spartanburg). Walter and Betty Montgomery and Converse's new president, Betsy Fleming, joined us for the selection process as well.

We visited the Steinway showroom on the day we arrived. It is in an historical building on West 57th Street. How can I begin to describe the awe: The art hanging in the lobby, the architecture of the building, the sense of ghosts of great pianists moving through the rooms, the gorgeous instruments.

With at least five pianists in tow, none of us dared to play a note on any of them. This was a feast for the eyes; the feast for the ears would come later.

Feeling pampered after a marvelous dinner, we returned to our comfortable rooms for a good night's sleep. I'm sure we were all anticipating the thrilling morning to come; the selection of three new Steinway 7-foot pianos for the studios in Blackman, and a new 5'7" for Paula's studio in the Lawson Pre-College.

At the Steinway factory the next morning, we were escorted to the factory rooms where we were treated to a trek through the production of the greatest piano in the world. We saw views ranging from the "raw" wood pianos waiting for completion, to the precision work of women shaping the hammers that strike the strings in the instruments. The bending of the frame was truly astounding; five men working on a critical 12-minute time table to move the frame from the gluing station to an ancient looking mold where they forced the wood into various vices to create that famous shape. The room smelled very similar to the smell of my father's workshop in the basement. It almost made me cry!

Doug had experienced the factory last year when he selected the new 9-foot for the Blackman stage (the Zimmerli piano), so he played in the selection room during our tour. By the time we got back, he had narrowed his choice to two pianos and was really unable to decide which one he loved most. He generously told me to play them all and pick the one I loved most, because he could go either way with his choice.

There were seven 7-foot pianos from which to choose. I was a bit nervous about playing in front of the "entourage" so I cut the tension by announcing names for each piano as I moved around the room. I named each one after a famous WOMAN pianist. And I didn't run out of names: "Clara" Schumann, "Myra" Hess, "Martha" Argerich, "Ursula" Oppens, etc. I confess that I named the one I didn't like Fred. Because the Steinway is virtually a handmade instrument, each piano did have its own personality and character. I decided that my new best friend would be Ursula. Luckily, Doug was wavering between Martha and Fred! So there was no conflict there. We brought Martha and Fred home to Converse, too.

As we returned home, I couldn't help thinking about how this 21st century trip to New York relates to the 19th century genesis of the Steinway piano. The world of beautiful music played on beautiful instruments persists through the centuries. The most astounding quote is this, from our factory tour guide: "If a Steinway employee from 1860 were magically dropped into this production room today in 2005, he would know exactly what to do!" The enduring nature of the workmanship is rather like pianists knowing how to play a Bach Toccata 300 years later. ■



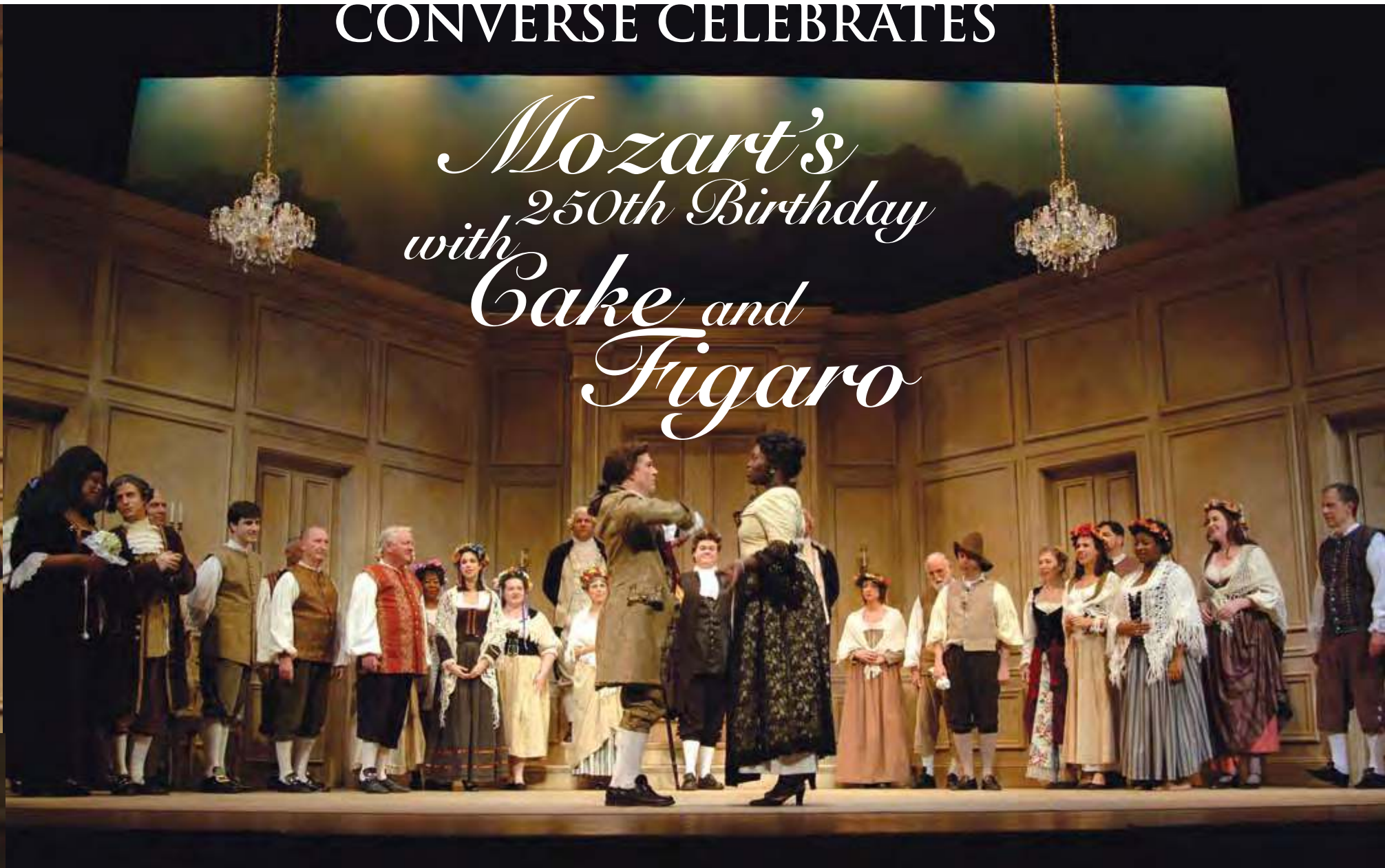
Dr. Melanie Taylor proudly displays the selection tag for her new piano, "Ursula," at the Steinway factory.





## CONVERSE CELEBRATES

# *Mozart's 250th Birthday with Cake and Figaro*



Converse Opera Theatre celebrated the 250th birthday of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) with a birthday party and fully-staged, three-day production of *The Marriage of Figaro*, one of his most celebrated operas.

*Figaro* opened on Mozart's birthday, January 27, in Twichell Auditorium. The auditorium was decorated for the birthday party celebration, and the 11-member cast took to the stage just after the orchestra led a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday." Birthday cake was served to the audience during intermission.

"Mozart is among the most significant and popular composers of classical music and is widely regarded as one of our greatest

composers," said Dr. Ronald Boudreaux, associate professor of voice at Converse and director of Converse Opera Theatre. "What better way to celebrate his 250th birthday than a production of one of his true classics?"

The production included a 20-member chorus, the 28-member Converse Symphony Orchestra, and a set designed and constructed especially for the production. "The orchestra was one of the smallest we've performed with at Converse and is actually the size orchestra that would have accompanied operas in Mozart's time," said Dr. Keith Jones, associate professor of voice and conductor of the orchestra. "An orchestra of this size is also ideal for a production

with so many recitatives because it did not overpower the actors."

Converse Opera Theatre presents a fully staged production each year in addition to one-act operas and opera scenes. The program provides a distinct advantage for Converse undergraduate and graduate vocal students who are afforded opportunities to build their repertoire and gain experience in a professional performance environment. Performance in professional level opera productions is rare for undergraduate students at many schools as the number of students far exceeds the availability of roles. Converse students often graduate with performance experience that sets them apart as they pursue careers in music. 🎭



The legend of Alia Lawson's Pre-College program began more than sixty years ago. Alia Ross (Lawson) knew that Converse music students needed teaching experience and guidance and, quite obviously, students to teach. The Pre-College officially opened its doors in the fall of 1944 with eight Converse student teachers and 36 students. Today, 16 student teachers teach 56 Pre-College students, and an additional 45 faculty provide lessons in music and dance to our nearly 900 students. The pedagogy program has produced many of our finest teachers, and it is interesting to note that 20 of our faculty members are Converse graduates who once participated in this very program as students.

Lawson Pre-College students range in age from six-months to adults in their

and jazz. The Palmetto Youth Orchestras and Palmetto Choristers provide large ensemble opportunities, along with our chamber coachings and flute choir. We are especially proud to host the South Carolina Instrumental Music Competition, which draws outstanding high school chamber musicians to Converse each spring.

In the summer, our student teaching opportunities cross over to the full arts spectrum. Converse students are hired as counselors or teachers in visual arts, creative writing, music, dance and theater for our Fine Arts Day Camp, which serves rising kindergarten through seventh graders and is a wonderful day-care alternative.

There is a tremendous energy that permeates the Lawson Pre-College.

Our faculty members continuously bring new ideas that include the establishment of a band program open to all but specifically addressing the needs of our homeschoolers who are without access to a band experience. We hope to implement a high intensity curriculum for Pre-College students who are particularly serious about their study and possibly preparing to major in music in college. We already have satellite programs in voice and violin at Dorman High School and Gable Middle School, and one faculty member is interested in

taking his expertise in cello instruction into the public schools as well. I could go on and on!

Mrs. Alia Ross Lawson, our founder, died on Sunday, January 22, 2006. She was a woman of tremendous energy and vision. The glorious music at her funeral, provided by Converse students and faculty, was incredibly spiritual and inspiring. One glance around the church told her story: it was filled with those



who loved her, admired her and had been changed by her gifts and giving.

I'm often amazed, but never surprised, to see the myriad of Pre-College connections around the campus and throughout our community. When Mrs. Lawson took the first steps towards the Pre-College program, do you think she imagined the scope of her legacy? As the Alia Lawson Pre-College Program of Music and Dance continues on its journey, we will honor its rich past, always guided by our commitment to excellence in arts education and to the enrichment of the lives of those we touch. 🎵



# A TRIBUTE TO Alia Lawson

by Paula Morgan,  
Director of the Lawson Pre-College Program

I can see her now in "old" Twichell sitting quite far back, program in hand, black felt tipped pen jotting something down. Back in those Pre-College days, in the 70's and early 80's, she insisted that all of us Pre-College teachers get her a copy of our end-of-the-year recital program at least two months before our May Recital Series. This way, they could all be typed up, printed and bound together in a booklet form. We complained that there would end up being changes, this was too far in advance to make these decisions, blah-blah-blah. She explained quite simply that if neither we nor our students knew what they would be playing two months in advance, chances of them playing well at all were just about nil. I've since learned that she was right. She would sit through program after program after program and as thoughts would come or a student would catch her attention, she would make notes in the margins of those booklets. The booklets are still in her collection, history intact.

Or haven't you been standing in the Blackman lobby on one occasion or another waiting for a concert to begin when you happen to glance out into the circle. And, there it is. The nose of the long, white Cadillac comes into view and the regal vehicle glides into its handicapped space and Mrs. Lawson appears. She was always beautifully



dressed – gorgeous scarves, interesting jewelry, fine shoes, a one-of-a-kind kimono. This was part of who she was, always elegant, always appropriate for the occasion. During the intermissions or after concert parties she had a way of taking my hand and intertwining her fingers in mine. She would lead me to a corner or chair and we would visit, sort of like an impromptu meeting. It usually began with her saying, "Well, how are things going?" Followed by – at some point in the conversation ... "Splendid!" and at times "good girl!" Another intermission move was when she might take a good bit of my upper arm – almost in a pinch – leading me as if by the nose to the person I was definitely supposed to meet.

And then I see the Lawsons together, Lionel and Alia, back in "old" Twichell sitting in their self-appointed seats. I can't help but wonder if this will be one of those concerts when Lionel will be counting the organ pipes – yet again.

The Lawsons had many an after-concert party. They were always festive and delicious and filled with old friends and new faces. Alia made sure that newcomers to the College, and especially the arts community, were introduced to new friends. And I must take a moment to say, Lionel Lawson was one of the warmest and most fun hosts I have ever known. An evening could easily have been spent just in his company, giggling over his latest, outrageous tie, listening to his tales about Spartanburg history and reaching for a "dollop" every now and then. And when these evenings

were done, Charlie and I would head home, having had a wonderful time, and I would promise myself that this time, yes, I would get the "Thank You" note in the mail. I mention this because so often my well-intentioned, nocturnal compositions never made their way onto the page. And Alia was so good at this. I have received countless notes for all occasions, notes of thanks, notes of praise, notes of encouragement, notes of sympathy. That particular slant of the letters, that special black ink - arrived in my mail so often and was always so welcome.

As you can imagine, the day following Alia's death was quite a day at The Alia Lawson Pre-College. I received numerous messages, phone calls, E-mails and notes. One from a colleague said, "Paula, I will be at the service for Alia tomorrow. She taught my mother at Greensboro College." Another was from a former Converse faculty member who felt compelled to write a tribute to Mrs. Lawson, full of his own special touches. And then I received a message from a Converse music student currently teaching in our program, asking whether she counted as Pre-College faculty and could participate in the funeral procession. And it went on and on. What makes a person sit down and respond in this way? A great lady.

How many of us are out there who have an Alia Lawson story to tell, or lots of them? Alia had much to teach, to share, to give and to do. She did it all, lived richly and enriched countless lives. 🎵

## THE LEGACY OF THE PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAM

by Paula Morgan, Director of the Lawson Pre-College Program



70s. Private vocal and instrumental instruction is our mainstay; however, there is much more. The youngest participate in Kindermusik, Suzuki, dance and our new Childbloom guitar program. Group classes are available for young voices, flute students and adults wishing to begin piano study. We teach music theory and composition classes. Our dance program offers more than twenty classes each week including ballet, lyrical, tap, hip-hop, modern



# Converse Initiates Music Therapy Degree

by Dr. Elizabeth York, Associate Professor of Music Therapy



Dr. Elizabeth York with Anne Stafford, music therapist (MT-BC)  
at Spartanburg Regional Hospital System

*Editor's Note: Dr. York received her undergraduate degree in music therapy from the University of Georgia, and her masters in music therapy and PhD in music education from the University of Miami. She served a three-year term on the Academic Program Approval Committee for the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA), the body that approves academic programs in music therapy throughout the country. Currently, she serves on the AMTA Ethics Board and the Education Council of the World Federation of Music Therapy.*

Beginning in fall 2006, The Petrie School of Music will offer the Upstate's first undergraduate music therapy degree program. Converse tapped me last spring to implement and direct the program, and my first year as a faculty member has been both thrilling and challenging.

The program has been in the planning stages for two years, made possible by a partnership with Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System (SRHS). In addition to providing a significant financial investment in the program's infancy, the support that Converse received from SRHS was exciting, and one reason I accepted the position. Converse's music therapy program will be unique in that the hospital partnership will provide students access to a state-of-the-art medical facility as they complete clinical requirements for the degree.

Public awareness of music therapy has been growing steadily since the 1950s. It is now an established healthcare profession that uses musical strategies to achieve therapeutic outcomes with persons experiencing a wide variety of health challenges. For example, music therapy is being utilized in the treatment of premature infants, people with AIDS, and those with memory and neurological impairments such as Parkinson's disease. The demand for credentialed music therapists is

growing as people seek out integrative approaches to treat medical conditions. Dr. Matthew Lee, director of the Rusk Institute in New York has stated, "Music therapy has been an invaluable tool with many of our rehabilitation patients. There is no question that the relationship of music and medicine will blossom because of the advent of previously unavailable techniques that can now show the effects of music."

Music therapists, like other healthcare professionals, abide by a Code of Ethics, Standards of Clinical Practice and are credentialed by a certification board after passing a national examination. They are recertified every five years and are expected to complete continuing education coursework to keep abreast of current trends in the field.

How can music therapy be so effective? One reason may be that music, even in its simplest form, touches us all in some way and evokes behavioral and physical responses. Music is pervasive. Even those who are profoundly deaf show a physiological response to the rhythmic pulse and lower frequencies within the range of hearing. They may not appreciate or need music, per se, but rhythmic perception may be an important tool to order and structure their environment and can be a prompt for exercise, dance, and movement activities.

It may be that because music reaches us emotionally, it has the potential to become an effective form of treatment. In many Alzheimer's patients, music taps into long-term memory and gives them a way to communicate with loved ones. A patient may suddenly remember lyrics to a cherished song that can be shared. In Utah, I conducted research with women survivors of domestic violence. For them, writing songs became an empowering experience because they were free to express themselves using a safe and non-threatening medium.

My love of music therapy brought me back to my hometown of Spartanburg to lead the Converse program after I left the city in 1968. Growing up, I benefited from excellent musical training in the Spartanburg city school system with mentors like Peggy Gignilliat, John Mabry, Vergene Colloms, Janice Janiec and David Penninger. But at that time, South Carolina had not yet discovered music therapy. When John Mabry introduced me to the field as a part of his choral classes at Spartanburg High School, I knew that this was my chosen path. For eight years I worked as a music therapist at the Georgia Mental Health Institute in Atlanta and for two, directed an outpatient day program affiliated with the DeKalb Community Mental Health Center. My clinical and research interests have been focused primarily on adults with psychiatric challenges, including persons with probable Alzheimer's disease, and women survivors of domestic violence.

For the last ten years, I directed the undergraduate music therapy program at Utah State University. The program at USU was well established when I arrived, and enrollment had swelled to more than 70 students by the time I left. There, students work in a range of facilities in the Logan (UT) community to meet their clinical requirements, including placements at the regional hospital, in the public schools with children with disabilities, and in home care with families served by Hospice.

So what can students interested in Converse's program expect? The degree includes music core coursework and courses in the behavioral sciences, as well as a clinical component where students receive hands-on experience in facilities throughout the community. Students will become proficient in piano, voice, and guitar, since those are the instruments most often used to work with patients. During their

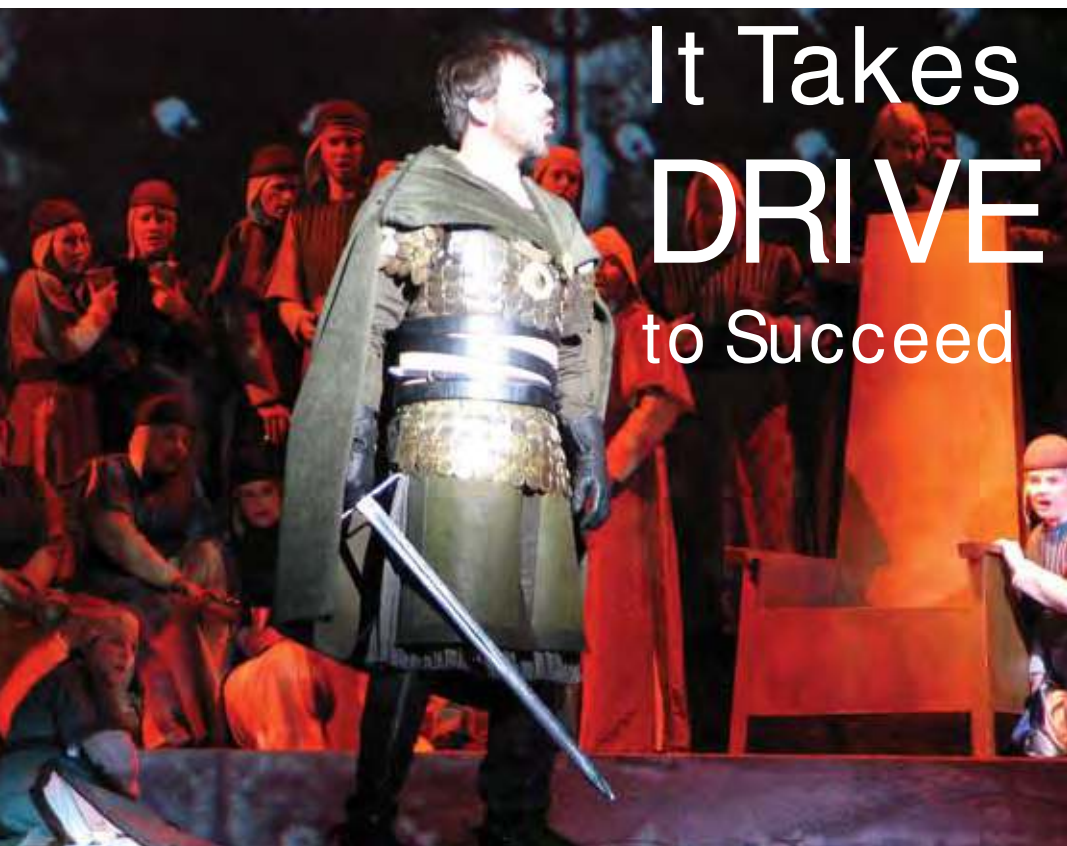
audition for the program, they will be asked to perform a popular song and accompany themselves. As I interview a student, I want to be sure that she understands the relationship between music and her own feelings.

The Converse student should be prepared to study a variety of subjects for the bachelor of music in music therapy degree. Psychology, abnormal psychology, art therapy, biology, statistics, human anatomy and special education courses are required. This is a four-and-a-half-year-long program. Completion of a six-month clinical internship is required before being awarded the degree. There are roughly 200 clinical internships available in the US, and Converse students will compete strongly for them.

Converse and Spartanburg Regional are working to identify potential practicum sites and coordinate supervision of our students. The hospital employs one music therapist, Anne Stafford, but we hope to attract more clinicians to the area to serve as role models and provide on-site supervision for our students.

Our music therapy program is already gaining valuable visibility. In February, Converse hosted a meeting of the Music Therapy Association of South Carolina. This meeting gave music therapists the opportunity to learn more about clinical practice in the area and to hear about the new Converse program. With formal approval expected in June, Converse will join 70 institutions nationwide who offer undergraduate and graduate degrees in music therapy.





# It Takes DRIVE to Succeed

For nine months out of any given year, Richard Troxell '88 MMus can be found performing in venues around the world. This February, he was in Portland, OR for a performance of *Macbeth*. Two days later, he flew to Los Angeles, CA to reprise the role of Lieutenant B.F. Pinkerton in the Los Angeles Opera's production of *Madame Butterfly*. A three-night performance as Christian in *Cyrano De Bergerac* with Opéra de Montpellier in France followed in mid-March. A whirlwind schedule for certain, but it's just life as usual for the 44-year-old native of tiny Thurmont, MD.

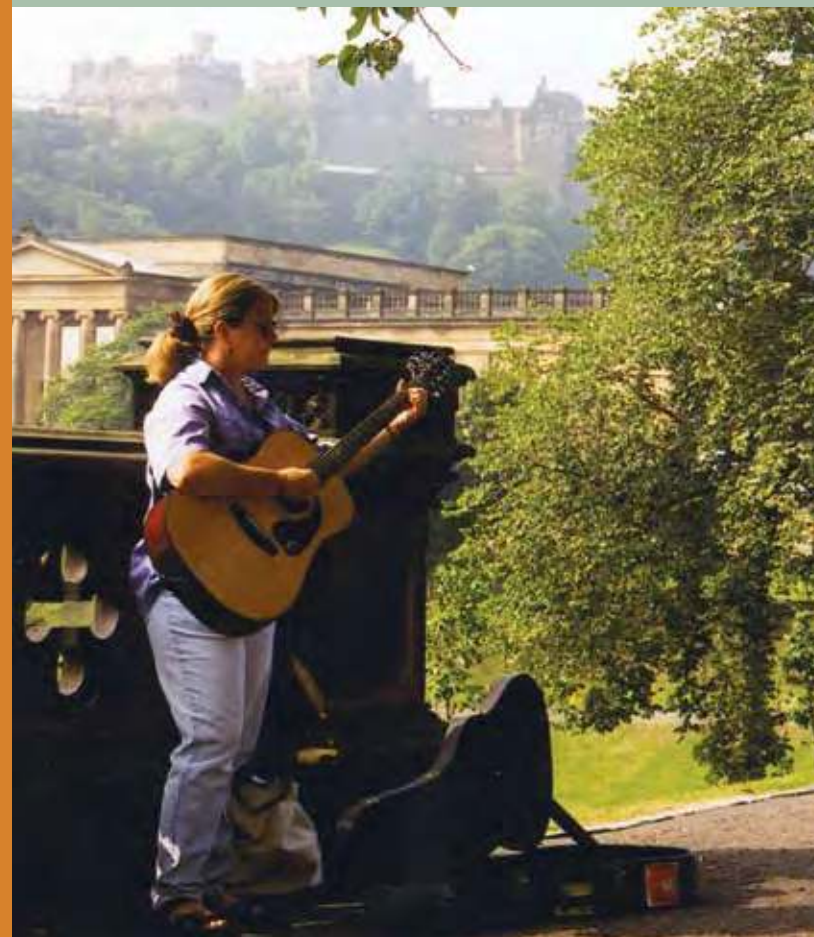
"There's no doubt that my big break came when I was cast as Lieutenant Pinkerton in Martin Scorese's 1995 film version of *Madame Butterfly*, but I had been singing since I was four-years-old," Richard explained. "Throughout my childhood, I sang in the local church and performed Broadway tunes at Lions Club events. I fell in love with making the audience happy. After high school, I worked for a summer at an amusement park in Gettysburg, PA where I was shot off a roof twice a day in an outdoor Western show and then sang two musical reviews

the same day. That's when I fell in love with theatre."

1993 was Richard's breakout year. "I was in Europe auditioning virtually everywhere and sleeping on trains. My agent encouraged me to submit my photo and bio for the role of Pinkerton in the film version of *Madame Butterfly*," Richard reflected. "It took nearly a year before I was ultimately cast. At the time of rehearsals, I was playing the role of Tybalt again in *Roméo et Juliette* in Paris, so I rehearsed *Butterfly* during the day and sang *Romeo* at night. We recorded the CD for *Butterfly* in Paris in July and then filmed the movie in Tunisia, Africa from October through December."

While Richard's number of booking engagements increased dramatically after *Madame Butterfly*, he still had to prove the breadth of what he could do. "People in the opera industry were saying, 'Sure you made a movie but can you sing on stage?' while people in the movie industry were saying, 'Sure, you made a movie but it was an opera movie.' The only way I could win was by showing what I could do in the auditions. It takes a lot of drive to succeed in this profession, and I am a very driven person. I take great pride in being willing to constantly push myself regardless of the success I've had in the past. That's the only way to make it." 🍷

## BEHIND THE SCENES OF "The Thistle & Shamrock"



in composition and voice performance. But while she has made varied and creative use of her music degree, the 1976 graduate's career path has been anything but traditional.

After graduating and working for a year at Converse, Margaret traveled guitar-in-hand as a solo act. The road soon led to Nashville where she worked as a session singer for recordings and jingles. The highlight of her Nashville experience was a performance in a national TV special with Dolly Parton and Carol Burnett. An interest in the way such shows were produced led Margaret behind the scenes, where she worked in television production and engineering for a number of years, both in Nashville and Charlotte. After work days filled with lights, microphones, videotape and editing consoles, Margaret still found time to dig into her music theory books to compose and record several award-winning soundtracks and themes for documentaries and promotional videos.

Margaret made the short hop from television to radio and into a situation where her technical experience, passion for music, and composition skills all came together. In 1990, she contributed guitar, vocals and keyboard to a national concert tour of "The Thistle & Shamrock with Fiona Ritchie," National Public

As a member of the Nashville Symphony Chorus, the Charlotte Oratorio Chorus and Chamber Singers in the 1980s, Margaret Kennedy '76 was enjoying the kind of musical life you would envisage for someone who double majored

Radio's weekly Celtic music program. Soon after, she began her long service as the radio program's director of operations and resources. Along the way she has created original music for special editions of the radio program, while managing its US office and serving as the liaison for musicians, listeners, and radio station personnel. Her radio role has also given her an opportunity to act as an on-air advocate for US Celtic musicians on the BBC Radio Scotland program, "Traveling Folk."

(continued p.16)

## Music from Within

By day, Carrie Leigh Page '02 works for a consumer bankruptcy firm in Louisville, KY. All other hours are devoted to music composition. "Music is always around me. It comes from within," she said. "I literally cannot write fast enough. I have little notebooks scattered about filled with ideas."

Sadly, it was the tragic death of a friend during Carrie's freshman year at Converse that ignited her passion for music composition. "I had written little pieces here and there but that event gave me a sudden need to write more. It was such an emotional experience yet I was not ready as a

composer to do justice to it. To this day, it is a piece I hope to finish in memoriam," she said.

After earning her music education degree from Converse, Carrie received the prestigious Moritz von Bomhard Fellowship in music composition at the University of Louisville. Carrie's focus was composition for voice, with a particular emphasis on dramatic vocal

composition. "I love composing for the voice. In fact, my first commissioned piece—for which I charged the price of a Belgian waffle—was written while I was a Converse student. It was for one of my classmates, and was a simple piece for horn, piano and voice," explained Carrie.

Carrie earned her master's in 2005, and has just completed a one-act

children's opera titled *Glue* that was commissioned by USC-Upstate. "*Glue* is a 20-minute one-act fairy tale-type story in the same vein as *The Magic Flute*, and is about conflict resolution for children. After premiering in April, it will tour elementary schools in the Spartanburg area."

The requested delivery date for *Glue* presented a challenge for Carrie. "I received the assignment in November and had to deliver it in January, making

(continued p.16)





(Behind the Scenes *continued*)

"I think I have one of the best jobs in the world," said Margaret, who often travels to work at the program's production base in Scotland. While there, she enjoys the acoustic music scene, playing and singing in music sessions with some of Scotland's finest artists. Visit Margaret at home and you will find her surrounded by a surprising array of instruments, including guitars, piano, keyboards, mandolins, bouzouki, fiddles, tin whistles, bass, trumpet, cornet, concertina, banjo, banjo-ukes, and ukeleles. Between radio program work and performances for charity, Margaret is enjoying blending her skill on these acoustic instruments with her mastery of the latest composition software technology. 🎵

(Music from Within *continued*)

it one of the fastest turnarounds I've had. While the project varies, it normally takes me two to three hours to compose each minute of music. In the case of *Glue*, I had to write the stories as well as the music. For most compositions, I write the initial sketches by hand and then transfer to my computer where I flesh them out with Sibelius or Finale, software packages that are designed for music composition.

"Ultimately, I'd like to be a composer in residence at a university where I can teach composition," she said. 🎵

## Living a Lifelong Dream

Amy Caroline Whisnant '82 is performing her second season with the Mannheim National Theatre in Germany and has just decided to stay on for a third. Known to her Converse friends as Amy, she is known professionally as Caroline Whisnant. Her career has led to performances with numerous North American, South American and German opera companies and festivals, and she has won acclaim with critics and audiences alike for her performances of a wide range of roles.

From childhood, Caroline seemed destined for a music career. "I took piano lessons from my aunt; ballet, tap and jazz classes from the Lenoir (NC) Academy of Dance; and voice lessons at a very early age. We traveled to Charlotte for performances at Opera Carolina as well as any local concerts. I knew I wanted to be an opera singer from a very early age. My sister (Annette Whisnant Hook '73) sang and I wanted to be just like her. I remember trips to Brevard Music Center to see the operas and hear the concerts. It was such a magical world. When we went backstage after *The King and I*, Val Patiachi, who had preformed as the King that evening, bowed to me and laughed when I bowed back."

Caroline earned her master's in vocal performance from Florida State University and her certificate of merit from Philadelphia's Academy of Vocal Arts. She worked as a secretary in New York City to pay the rent while auditioning for roles. After signing with an agent in 1993, she performed in New York's Tri-Cities Opera, the Summer Broomhill Festival in Kent, England and Fall Opera Memphis. In 1996, she auditioned for the Des Moines Metro Opera season (DMMO). "Although I was not originally contracted, I was hired as a last minute replacement in *Don Giovanni*. This was especially fortuitous as Dr. Robert Larsen of DMMO became incredibly supportive of my talent and hired me for the next five seasons.

His belief in my future helped to keep me focused during the lean times in New York while I was working as a secretary."

In 2002, Caroline was signed to the roster of New York-based Randsman Artists' Management. Two years later, they encouraged her to move to Germany to further her career. She made her debut in Karlsruhe in the title role of *Elektra*. "Since moving to Germany, I have sung in some fabulous shows and worked with wonderful colleagues. One break I did experience was my audition for Oper Frankfurt. I was sitting in an E-mail café one fall afternoon in 2004 when my European agent called and asked how I was feeling. I knew something was up by the excitement in his voice. It turned out they needed someone to sing an *Elektra* orchestra rehearsal that evening. Fortunately, I was in good voice and had a wonderful audition for the company. I was then hired to sing Lady Macbeth in a new production last spring and I am currently singing their *Elektra* performances."

As she looks back on how her career has taken shape, Caroline seems particularly satisfied. "There are still things to accomplish, roles to learn, houses to sing in and improvements to make, but I feel very fortunate to be living my dream," she said. 🎵



## The Thing is, We Weren't Supposed to Be Here This Long...

by Dr. Christopher Vaneman

Dr. Kelly Vaneman is chair of musicology and composition and assistant professor of oboe and musicology, and Dr. Chris Vaneman is assistant professor of flute and musicology.

We came to Converse from New York City in the fall of 1997, when Kelly took a position at the School of Music. We were in our twenties then and had no clear idea of what we were in for. As a native Yankee who had lived only in the North and in Europe, I was full of the usual prejudices about South Carolina: I'd seen *Porgy and Bess* and *Deliverance*, and while I acknowledged that neither painted a trustworthy picture of what life would be like in Spartanburg, I was still pretty nervous. But I couldn't argue with the great opportunity. Besides, Kelly's salary at Converse would be more than both of us put together made in New York. So we agreed to give it a try, for a couple of years, maybe, then move on.

Once here, we realized, hey, this is pretty nice. The campus was lovely, the streets were shaded by tall, ancient oak trees, the people were perfectly normal – they wore shoes and everything – and our three-bedroom house cost little more than our one-bedroom apartment on 207th Street in Manhattan. Even Earnest, the cat we'd rescued from the basement of our apartment building, seemed to think he'd gone to heaven: the green stuff in front of the house where the pavement and broken glass were supposed to be was called "grass" and was perfectly safe to roll around in. Kelly liked and respected her colleagues, and soon I was teaching part-time at Converse as well.

We began to rehearse and perform as a trio with Dr. Melanie Foster Taylor, associate professor of piano pedagogy, who is a fantastic musician – both

analytical and deeply expressive. I was commuting back and forth to New York City on many weekends to rehearse and perform with groups there, and when we began to discuss forming a trio with Melanie the idea of trading that twelve-hour drive for a five-minute ride to her house was pretty appealing. We called the group Ensemble Radieuse, after the brand of beer that was our post-concert quaff in cafes with other musicians when we had lived in Belgium.

A year passed, then two, then three. We never seemed to get around to applying for those other jobs we had planned on pursuing, and application deadlines for places like the University of Kentucky or New Mexico came and went unmarked. By fall of 2001 we'd both finally completed the interminable Doctor of Musical Arts program at Yale. We began spending summers teaching and playing at the Performing Arts Institute in Pennsylvania. By this point, Radieuse had long since run out of decent music to play (not much had been written for the flute/oboe/piano combination), so we began to commission new pieces from composers we knew and to make arrangements, which usually involved taking a piece originally written for small orchestra – Ravel's *Le Tombeau de Couperin*, for example – and setting it for trio. By 2003 we had accumulated enough new pieces to fill out a CD, and managed to get grants enabling us to record and promote it. In the spring of 2004 we performed concerts in England and Panama, and then had to take a little time off...



Our daughter Taliesin was born on September 11, 2004. The students had been bugging us to have a baby for years, and when she arrived she was embraced by what seemed like the entire Petrie School. Within 24 hours of her birth she'd been presented with her very own (hand-knitted) Pink Panther ears and tail. Tally attended her first concert at two months old, traveled with us to perform on Tennessee public radio at five months, and will be accompanying us to England in May as part of a concert tour preliminary to the introduction of the Harlaxton International Chamber Festival.

Kelly is now chair of the Department of Musicology and Composition, and my office is directly above hers. We're faculty sponsors for Mortar Board and FLAG, we've found a great little Episcopal church, and most of our dearest friends are Converse alumnae and colleagues. We stopped paying attention to positions opening elsewhere a couple of years ago. So if anyone knows of any flute/oboe/music history jobs available, don't bother letting us know. We probably wouldn't get around to applying. 🎵



# The Seven-Second Reverb at Ely Cathedral

by Hollis Roberts '06



*Editors Note: A Milliken and Daniel Music Scholar, Hollis Roberts '06 is a violin performance major from Sautee, GA. She is concertmaster of the Converse Symphony Orchestra and a member of the Araya Quartet and Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra. Hollis has participated in masterclasses with Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble, Emerson String Quartet, Juilliard String Quartet and Beaux Arts Trio. In 2005, she was named as The Petrie School's Presser Scholar and was selected to perform with the National Festival Orchestra in Carnegie Hall. Hollis also teaches violin in the Lawson Pre-College program.*

As a participant in the 2005 Converse Festival Tour, I was privileged to be a part of incredible performing experiences with fellow students and faculty. Each place we visited resulted in a special story with meaning for us, and one of my personal favorites was Ely Cathedral near Cambridge, England.

Built in the late 14th century, Ely is one of the oldest cathedrals that we performed in during the tour. It is famous for its size, ornate carvings and seven-second reverberation. Our concert was held in the Lady Chapel, which is a favorite spot for vocal ensembles to perform and record because of the beautiful, open acoustics. Though I'm a string player and not a vocalist, this venue was appropriate for my string quartet and was especially suited to slow pieces like the one we were to play.

Upon arrival at Ely, we were in desperate need of transformation from a group of sleepy, tired and hungry college students into a professional and put-together performing ensemble. We had come by coach and it had been a long ride.

Often in performance tours, there is little time for preparation and warm-up, and this was the case for the Ely concert. So, in the few minutes left before the performance, I grabbed my fiddle and went outside to play a few scales and get my fingers moving.

The Araya Quartet, of which I am proud to be a member, was scheduled to perform the beautiful slow movement of Schubert's *Quartet in D minor*, known as "Death and the Maiden." Mr. Law and Ms. Johnson, our quartet coaches, had advised us that we would need to adjust our timing in some places of the piece in order to allow for the reverberation in the cathedral. Grateful for the tip, the four of us huddled together and looked at our music, discussing the adjustments we wanted to make. As we were talking, we realized that making these small changes was not as simple as it sounded. Without time to rehearse our new ideas, we would need to rely on strong communication and instinct in order for the performance to succeed.

A few minutes later, it was time for the concert to start. I found myself sitting in a carved stone alcove where an ornate statue of a saint had no doubt once stood, years ago.

As I listened to the beautiful voices of the chamber singers and looked around at the Lady Chapel, I was overcome with awe. The massive room had rightfully kept its grandeur, but was drained with the weight of 600 years of existence in addition to severe damage from the Reformation. Everywhere I looked, ornate details were vying for my attention. Little splashes of color told me that room had once been brilliantly painted, but most of the paint had long since chipped away.

Soon, it was time to pull my mind back into focus and get ready to play. I stretched my hands and looked around the room for my quartet buddies, and we walked toward the front, sat down and prepared to play. As we breathed together and played the first chorale-like phrase of the piece, my anxiety began to subside. The strength and beauty of the centuries-old chapel helped to set the mood for the music as we played.

The piece grew from a deep and plaintive chorale to a passionately virtuosic section. We had always enjoyed playing that movement of the quartet, and that day's performance was no exception. Working with the new acoustics challenged us as we played, but our communication and understanding of the piece was strengthened because of the challenge. As I concentrated on



*The Araya Quartet (clockwise from top left): Hollis Roberts '06, violin; Katie Garber '08 of Madison, VA, violin; Jean Loder '07 of Easley, SC, violoncello; and Katerina Lewis '06 of Atlanta, GA, viola*

playing my part, which was a difficult one, I also listened closely to the other parts as we passed the melody back and forth. There is always so much to think about and respond to when performing chamber music. As the piece drew to a close, the mood lightened and the original chorale returned – this time in a major key. The last chord of the piece echoed throughout the chapel with a soft calmness that was, for me, unforgettable. ■



# Honoring a Commitment to Perfection

As a choral and drama teacher at Lithia Springs (GA) High School, Carolen Belcher Hansard '56 encouraged her students to search within themselves to discover their abilities. “Sure, I was tough on them. I knew that in whatever we were working on, we were not going to be perfect, but I did my best to make sure we were going to be as perfect as we could,” she said. Her determination made a difference in the lives of those Carolen taught, and six former students have chosen to honor her by establishing an endowed scholarship for music education students in The Petrie School of Music.

“Students were clamoring to be in her classes,” said Marshall James, a

1983 graduate of Lithia High who helped establish the scholarship. “We would have 80 to 100 students in the choral and drama classes, and every one of them wanted to be there.”

Carolens students were featured in many one-act plays and musicals. Her one-act play teams won ten consecutive Georgia regional titles and her male quartet earned numerous first place region titles. Several of her students were admitted to the governor’s honors program and the Georgia All-State Chorus. Many went on to major in music in college, some became conductors and choir directors, one attended Juilliard and many others are active in community theatre. “She put something in each of us that we will carry for the rest of our lives,” said Marshall.

After 27 years of teaching high school music and drama, Carolen retired in 1994. In 1996, she was inducted into the Georgia State Thespian Hall



of Fame. Today, she teaches piano privately and conducts the junior choir at Lithia Springs United Methodist Church.

Marshall and five classmates established the Carolen Belcher Hansard '56 Endowed Scholarship in May 2005. “We still have a way to go to meet the \$25,000 minimum before the fund can become active,” said Marshall.

If you wish to honor Carolen by contributing to the scholarship fund, contact the Converse Office of Development at (864) 596-9018 or E-mail [development@converse.edu](mailto:development@converse.edu).

# The Converse Fund

Painting the World Purple...  
one young woman at a time

Jennifer Wahl '06 is a history major and politics minor from Smyrna, GA who has energetically embraced opportunities to learn, serve and lead at Converse.

“Whether in the Campus Life Office or in a politics class, I am surrounded by mentors who want me to succeed in every aspect of my college career. As a sophomore, I learned that my mom was terminally ill with cancer and took leave to be with her. Converse faculty and staff helped me to stay focused on my education and encouraged me to find ways to grow personally and professionally from the experience. Today, it has opened up an opportunity that has shaped and guided my career goals. YOUR GIFT helps to make it possible for Converse faculty and staff to be a part of my life.”



“During my junior year, I participated in London Term. It was surreal to study British history and economics while visiting the very places that we were learning about. Not every college sends their own professors to teach students during study/travel programs, and that made an important difference to me. YOUR GIFT helps fund scholarships and hands-on learning experiences that impact every Converse student.”



“YOUR GIFT funds programs that help me to grow as a leader and as a person. The Converse College Institute for Leadership gave me the confidence and skills to pursue leadership opportunities throughout my college career – from College Republicans to SGA and Crescent to Project Serve. This year, I am chairperson of the Spartanburg Colleges Relay For Life for the American Cancer Society. I also serve as chair of Honor Board, which has allowed me to uphold one of Converse’s most sacred and valued traditions. Following my graduation this May, I look forward to joining you in supporting the students who will follow in my footsteps at Converse.”



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Spartanburg, SC 29302



CONVERSE FUND 21

## Descendant of Converse Founder Leaves Legacy Through Annuity Trust

Edwin Malloy, Jr. was the older son of Margaret Manning Malloy 1907; and his grandfather, William Sinkler Manning, was a Converse founder. Upon graduation from the US Naval Academy with distinction in 1940,

Malloy was commissioned an ensign in the US Navy. He was promoted to commander before retiring in 1946. That same year, he joined the family-owned Cheraw Yarn Mills where he eventually served as secretary and director from 1963 until his death in 2005.

In honor of the relationships his mother and grandfather held with Converse, Edwin actively supported the College as a volunteer and with financial gifts throughout his life. He created a lasting family legacy by establishing a charitable lead trust in his estate plan, which will provide substantial income to Converse for the next 20 years.

“A charitable lead trust is a way to make a planned gift to Converse and transfer assets to heirs at a reduced estate or gift tax,” said Dianne Ansley, director of planned giving at Converse. “The concept is simple: You transfer cash, securities or other property to a trust for a set number of years and designate

Converse as the income beneficiary. Upon termination of the trust, the trust property is transferred to your heirs. In addition, any future appreciation of the property can be channeled to heirs without incurring further gift or estate tax liability. Given the size of gift and estate taxes, the savings that can be achieved through use of a charitable lead trust can be significant.”

For more information about charitable lead trusts, contact the Converse Office of Development at (864) 596-9018 or E-mail [development@converse.edu](mailto:development@converse.edu).







## \$6.5 Million Renovation Transforms Montgomery Student Center into Hub for Student Life

Following an 18-month, \$6.5 million renovation that has transformed Montgomery Student Center into a hub for modern day student life, the facility was formally unveiled and dedicated during a ceremony on February 7.

“The beautifully renovated student center is the site for shaping the culture of community at Converse,” said President Betsy Fleming. “It is a comfortable and engaging space where students can meet, eat, relax and discuss local and global issues. It is a space for such events as band parties and coffeehouse-style poetry jams. It is where we will celebrate longstanding Converse traditions and initiate new ones.”

McMillan Smith and Partners, lead architects on the project, designed the renovated facility to harmonize the historic context of the campus with a contemporary chic interior. Incorporation of technology was a priority of the project, and Montgomery is now home to the College’s first wireless hotspot. Sneakers grill has transformed into a cyber café complete with plasma screen televisions. In addition to dramatic alterations to existing offices and spaces, the renovation also added office space for student government organizations, a fitness center, computer stations, the new Gibbs Chapel, a seminar room, a conference room, a day student lounge and a 250-seat multipurpose room.

The open floor plan serves the constant level of activity in the center. Alcoves just off main hallways provide space for casual meetings,

study sessions or relaxation. A retro yet contemporary style has been achieved with the color scheme and suspended drop ceilings that reveal mechanical supports. Undulating contours in the ceiling and floors define the student art gallery leading to Sneakers and Loafers Game Room. An inviting fireplace with casual seating is the centerpiece of the lobby, which includes an events and information desk with a plasma screen that continuously provides campus information.

Molly Stoehr '06 said that the center has already become the heart of the campus. “Every time I go into Montgomery, I see students checking E-mail while eating in Sneakers, working out in the fitness room, worshipping in the chapel, hanging out with friends in Loafers, shopping in the bookstore, meeting in SGA offices or studying on a comfy couch. The renovation allows us to experience all aspects of student life—be it mind, body or spirit—under one roof.”



*Rose Montgomery Johnston and Walter and Betty Montgomery were presented with framed prints of the renovated student center during the dedication ceremony as a token of the College’s appreciation. They are pictured above with President Betsy Fleming.*

## The Montgomery Family Legacy

At the time of its construction in 1960, the student center was named for the Montgomery family of Spartanburg in honor of three trustees who had rendered outstanding service to Converse: John H. Montgomery, Walter Scott Montgomery, and his son Walter S. Montgomery Sr., then chair of the Board of Trustees. Since that time, three other members of the family have served as trustees: Walter S. Montgomery Jr. from 1967-1996, Betty James Montgomery whose service began in 1997 and continues today and Rose Montgomery Johnston who began her term in 2005.

The Montgomery family is the only one in Converse history who has provided continuous leadership and service to the College since its founding. “Our family is proud of its long association with Converse,” said Walter S. Montgomery Jr. “We are equally proud of the entire Converse family who has given so much in vision, leadership, work and treasure.”

The family’s legacy continued with their leading support for the 2005 renovation project.



# Converse Students Explore Non-Traditional Learning in January Term

The four-week January Term at Converse is one of the most popular among students because it is designed specifically for the pursuit of non-traditional learning opportunities through innovative course design, study-travel and internships.



Janae O'Shields '07, Lauren Boughman '08, Ashley Thomas '08 and Prentiss White '08 examine a plastic skull model during Dr. Steele's "Introduction to Bio-Forensics" course.

Dr. Edna Steele, associate professor of biology, took a page from the popular television show "CSI" in her

*Introduction to Bio-Forensics* course. In addition to presentations from forensics experts with local law enforcement agencies, Dr. Steele's students took part in blood splatter examination, hair analysis and victim identification through bones found at a crime scene.

In *Alternative Photography Methods*, Andrew Blanchard, assistant professor of printmaking and photography, led students on a reverse journey through the advances in photography. "Students took a digital photograph, manipulated it in Adobe Photoshop, converted it to a black and white negative, burned it to a transparency and eventually exposed it by sunlight," said Blanchard.

Seventeen students traveled to Italy to participate in one of two courses. One group, led by Dr. Woodrow Hughes, associate professor of economics and business, explored the development of the European Union and interviewed business owners and consumers to



Members of Dr. James Hymas' class use a Vegas-style roulette table as they research the mathematics of probabilities.

gauge the popularity of the Euro. Dr. Catherine West, associate professor of French and director of women's studies, guided students in the study of conversational French in the second course.

Students of Dr. David Berry, associate professor of music history and theory, analyzed every song ever recorded by The Beatles and discussed the Fab Four's contributions to the world of music.

Dr. Janet LeFrancois, associate professor of psychology, taught the basics of Iyengar Yoga to a group of 21 students. Most had never tried yoga before and decided to take the class to help them relax and stay focused. "If the body is balanced and aligned, the mind will follow suit. Stress is stored in the muscles, so the more you

can extend the muscles, the more they relax and stress is reduced," said LeFrancois, who recently earned certification to teach introductory Iyengar.

The classroom of Dr. James Hymas, associate professor of mathematics, was transformed into a Las Vegas casino as students used various gambling games to research the mathematics of probability.



Meredith Holzbach '06 at the wheel of a 50-foot yacht off the coast of the British Virgin Islands.

Dr. Jeri King and a group of six Converse students spent 26 days in Oaxaca, Mexico living as locals. "The class was a total immersion course, meaning that the students were completely engrossed in the local culture," said Dr. King. "Oaxaca is located in the Southern region of Mexico and has 16 indigenous groups with differing languages in addition to Spanish, so the students were able to get the feeling of what it's like to live in a true Mexican village. They experienced life as a local by staying with Oaxaca families and taking language courses at a nearby language institute."

Dr. Wayne Cheser, associate professor of education and a licensed US Coast Guard Captain, took a group of 13 Converse and Wofford College students to the British Virgin Islands where they learned basic navigation. During their week-long venture, the group sailed and lived on two 50-foot fiberglass yachts.

While some of their peers were conducting research, a group of other Converse students were getting hands-on professional experience through internships as they worked for US senators in Washington, DC, Copa Airlines in Panama, Price Waterhouse Coopers in Spartanburg, and the Anderson County (SC) Solicitor's Office. 📌



Keithi Staton '06 practices Iyengar Yoga as Dr. Janet LeFrancois looks on.



## New Dean of Students Named

On January 3rd, Dr. Molly Dueterhaus joined Converse College as dean of students. She earned a doctorate in higher education from Vanderbilt University in May 2004, and a master of education in higher education and student affairs from the University of Vermont in May 1992. She completed her baccalaureate at George Mason University in 1990. In addition to serving as an undergraduate instructor at both Tennessee Wesleyan College and Vanderbilt University, she served as assistant dean of students at Saint Michael's College and director of residential life at Mary Baldwin College.

As a member of a military family, Dueterhaus was able to see much of the country and the world as a child. She and her husband Alan, who has a doctorate in higher education administration, have five children, ages five to thirteen.

Regarding her philosophy on student life, Dueterhaus commented, "In my work with college students, I try to always remember that college

is just a stopover in their journeys through life. With that in mind, I believe it is our responsibility to encourage students to discover who they are, to explore their place and purpose and to find their niche on the campus and in the world. We need to create an environment that will enrich their learning and encourage growth: to push students out of their comfort zones so that they will learn from a wide

expanse of stories and perspectives which will carry with them beyond Converse College. And ultimately, in this fast moving, ever changing, complex world, we need to empower students to become confident, active and engaged citizens in their work and play." 📌



In November, an endowed chair of philosophy was established at Converse in honor of longtime Spartanburg physician Dr. Harold E. Fleming. The position was made possible by a \$1.25 million gift from Billy and Lindsay Webster of Spartanburg. Mr. Webster is vice chairman of the Converse Board of Trustees. Kevin DeLapp, who will earn his Ph.D. from Duke University this spring, has been hired for the position and will join the Converse faculty in the fall of 2006.

"Betsy Fleming's focus on investing in the core of the liberal arts tradition is something that Lindsay and I feel is important to support, and we chose to do so in a way that honors one of our community's leading

## \$1.25 Million Endowment Establishes Chair of Philosophy

citizens. Dr. Harold Fleming and his family have a long-standing and deep commitment to both Spartanburg and the tradition of the liberal arts education," Webster said.

The establishment of the endowed chair affirms Converse's commitment to providing a thorough and liberal education for women. "My first priority at Converse is to ensure that this institution prepares women for lifelong learning, leadership and service," said President Fleming. "The study and application of ethics are central to every academic subject and every profession in our society."

"It is a tremendous honor to have this endowed chair named for a quiet community leader and beloved doctor who also happens to be my father," Fleming continued. "He has always believed that behaving ethically is the responsibility of every global citizen and that it is most vital on the local level as a daily habit. My father considers education to be the vehicle



Kevin DeLapp

for developing the knowledge and skills necessary for crafting an ethical life."

The hiring of DeLapp culminated a national search to fill the position. DeLapp graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 2001 with highest honors in philosophy before attending graduate school at Duke University. His specialization in philosophy is in metaethics and the history of ethical theory, and he has research and teaching interests in ancient Greek philosophy, logic, moral psychology, and social and political philosophy. 📖



Billy Webster, President Fleming and Dr. Harold Fleming

## Renovation to Log Cabin Completed

Steeped in Converse history, the log cabin is a long-time favorite of Converse students and alumnae. Renovations to the cabin began in June 2005 are now complete, and the cabin reopened February 6.

Renovations include a new roof, restored logs, refinished floors, the addition of a handicap accessible entrance and new heating, air and lighting. 📖



# FACULTY AND STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Faculty

Promotions & Appointments:

**Wendi Arms** (music library) has been promoted to assistant librarian; **Dr. William Baker** has accepted the position of chair of the Department of Psychology; **Dr. Sherry Fohr** has agreed to serve as chair of the Religion and Department of Philosophy; **Dr. Kelly Harrison-Maguire** (education) has been granted tenure; **Dr. Anita Rose** (English) has been granted tenure and promotion to associate professor; **Teresa Prater** has been appointed a Charles A. Dana Professor of Art; and **Dr. Kelly McElrath Vaneman** has been promoted to associate professor.

**Andrew Blanchard** (art & design) participated in exhibitions at Central Michigan University, The Ink Shop Print Center in Ithaca, New York, The Columbia Art Center (Columbia, MD), The Spartanburg Museum of Art and Arizona State University.

"Dropping Out: A Look at Client Attrition Rates," by **Dr. Pamela Clark** (graduate studies) was published in *The Palmetto Family*, which is the South Carolina Association for Marriage and Family Therapists' bi-yearly publication.

**Dr. Jean Dunbar** (math/computer science) presented a paper, "One Small Step Towards Probing the PPC," at the British Combinatorial Conference in Durham, England.

**Dr. Rafael E. Hernandez** (foreign languages & literatures) presented a research paper titled "The Image of Iniquity in the Latin American Novel" at the 8th Annual Comparative Literature Conference, USC-Columbia in February.

A story by **Sam Howie** (English), "Ice," was published in the Fall/Winter 2005-06 issue of the *Potomac Review*.

**John James** (ITS) led a presentation entitled "QX Web Additions/Modifications" at Jenzabar's Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA.

**Dr. Richard Keen** (psychology) earned the Excellence in Teaching Award from South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (SCICU). The award is in its inaugural year and is given to one professor at each of the 20 SCICU member institutions.

The journal *Teaching for Excellence* published an anthology of **Dr. Tom McDaniel's** (education) articles entitled "Educators' Practical Guide to Current Legal Issues."

**Rick Mulkey** (English) received a Pushcart Prize nomination for his poems that appeared in the Spring 2004 issue of *Shenandoah*, and in his chapbook, *Bluefield Breakdown*. Professor Mulkey served as a visiting writer and gave a reading of his work at Furman University in February.

**Teresa Prater's** (art & design) digital photograph, "Spirit Child #1," won third place at the Third Biennial Hub City Juried Art Competition.

"The Flight Patterns of Birds," a story by **Susan Tekulve** (English) was nominated for a Pushcart Prize by the *Connecticut Review*.

**Dr. John Theilmann** (history/politics) presented a paper co-authored with Jessie Burke '05, "Prince Pleasers or Political Theorists: Counsel and Constraint in the Works of Hoccleve, Gower, and Chaucer," at the 31st Southeastern Medieval Association meeting. He was elected to the SEMA executive council for a three-year term.

*Work, Family, and Faith: Rural Southern Women in the Twentieth Century*, co-

edited by Converse's **Dr. Melissa Walker** (history/politics) has been published by University of Missouri Press. Another essay, "One Foot in Each World," was published in *Black Earth and Ivory Tower: New American Essays from Farm and Classroom*.

**Elizabeth York** (music therapy) presented research conducted on the efficacy of music therapy and creative arts interventions with women victims of domestic violence at the World Congress of Music Therapy, Brisbane, Australia.

## Students

Graduate soprano **Kamila Bobrova** was invited to sing at the 2006 International Tatarstan Festival in Kazan in March.

**Melissa Vaughan-Kleppel** (Converse II) and **Sydney Weinberg** '08 were selected for their performances in Theatre/Converse's production of *Seascape* to compete for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship at next year's regional Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

**Patty Amatriain** '06 and **Jennifer Jones** '07 earned first place at the 8th Annual Undergraduate Research Conference at the University of Maryland for their research poster entitled "Production and Investigation of Prolactin Antagonist Exotoxin Fusion Protein."

**Brelan Riddle** '06, **Summer Uhl** '06 and **Megan Jacobs** '06 were included in the March issue of *Creative Convocation*, a national all-university/college based publication that showcases student artwork. Brelan was also accepted into the Planes, Trains & Automobiles exhibition at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art.





## Dear Fellow Alumnae,

Messages of excellence, beauty, service and commitment are abundantly expressed in this spring edition of the Converse Bulletin.

The Petrie School of Music has received one of the music world's unique distinctions as a Steinway School. At each Converse occasion, music students dazzle and inspire us with their showcase of talents. For the generous gifts pledged to Converse to attain this Steinway School designation, we offer our deepest thanks and appreciation.

On February 7, a celebration was held

to unveil the renovated Montgomery Student Center. As alumnae we have so many memories of checking our mailbox, purchasing those all-important textbooks and selecting the right Converse gift for our "little sister." During my freshman year there was even the pressure of passing the required swimming test. Over the years, Montgomery has been filled with the sounds of competitive basketball games, laughter and music coming from Sneakers, activities at the Career Services office and student government meetings. Each of us can add our own memories. Now that Montgomery Student Center has reopened, it has once again become a vibrant hub of student life at Converse. Come see for yourself and enjoy the changes.

Your Alumnae Board has been working to recognize Converse women who are

making a difference in their communities. During Reunion Weekend on April 28 – 29, these gifted alumnae will be presented awards for excellence in their careers, their volunteerism and their continued love and support of Converse. In addition, the slate of new board members will be presented. The Alumnae Board continues to attract women of all ages who want to support our alma mater. They will represent Converse and you through their gifts of time, talents and contributions to the College.

Spring is here and Reunion is just around the corner. To those of you from classes ending in ones and sixes, come relive the memories with your classmates and enjoy the new beauty of Converse College. I look forward to seeing you!

*Sandra Sherard Bethea*  
**Sandra Sherard Bethea '67**  
Converse College Alumnae Association President

## Greece: Following the Footsteps of Paul

MAY 19 – JUNE 2, 2006



Trace the Apostle Paul's journey and gain a renewed appreciation for his mission, message, and ministry by exploring the great cities of Classic and Hellenistic Greece. Explore the Scriptures in their original setting of Philippi, Thessaloniki, Berea, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, and Patmos, where pivotal events of the early church come alive. Visit Vergina, site of the royal tombs; Meteora, with its towering monasteries; and Delphi, shrine of the ancient god Apollo.

Of course, no tour would be complete without a cruise of the wonderful Greek islands. Led by Dr. David Sparks, president of Footsteps Ministries, and his wife Elizabeth, who will help relate Paul's message to today's world while taking you off the beaten path to experience Greek food and culture to the fullest extent.

For information, contact the Alumnae Office at (864) 596-9011 or E-mail [alumnae@converse.edu](mailto:alumnae@converse.edu).

## Converse Searches for Director of Alumnae

Converse College will soon bid Melissa Johnson a fond farewell as she moves on to the next chapter in her life. For the past six years, Melissa has developed a strong alumnae outreach effort that has helped many alumnae to remain connected with their alma mater.

The search for an alumnae director is

currently underway. Interested alumnae are encouraged to apply online at [www.converse.edu/employment](http://www.converse.edu/employment).

The position requires the enthusiastic management and development of the College's alumnae relations program. A BA or higher degree is required and the candidate must be an alumna of Converse College. Experience in alumnae relations, development, event planning or related fields preferred. Occasional travel, weekend and weeknight work

required. Strong organizational and communications skills are necessary.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: serving as primary link to alumnae and staff liaison to Alumnae Association Board; planning and attending alumnae events and programs; overseeing alumnae-related administrative functions; and cultivating active alumnae involvement in the life of the College through publications, special events and career networking.

# Paint the World Purple

## Reunion Weekend April 28-29, 2006

This year, Converse College welcomes back the classes of 1931, 1936, 1941, 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2005, and the Golden Club for Alumnae Reunion Weekend.

Visit the Reunion Weekend website at [www.converse.edu/reunion](http://www.converse.edu/reunion) for complete information and registration.



## REUNION "IT'S A CLASS ACT" AWARDS

Help your class compete for Reunion awards! During the Awards Luncheon on Saturday, two classes will be announced as winners of the "It's A Class Act" competition based on two specific goals. Awards are: Gift Award and Participation Award.

Converse needs You! Give to The Converse Fund online at [www.converse.edu](http://www.converse.edu), or use the enclosed capital business reply to mail your gift.

## A New Online Auction [www.conversecollege.cmarket.com](http://www.conversecollege.cmarket.com)

- April 1, 2006 Preview Items Online
- April 12, 2006 Bidding Begins at 8:00 am
- April 28, 2006 Bidding Ends at 8:45 pm

## Join Us For An Auction You Will Not Want To Miss!

Luxury vacations, fine home furnishings, golf packages, original work by professional artists and so much more...for example: Carolina Panthers Club Level Package to include 12 seats, food, beverages and three parking passes. Luxury accommodations for one week at Figure Eight, North Carolina.

Additional items will be included in the All-Stars Athletic Silent Auction on campus during Reunion Weekend April 26-28, 2006.

All proceeds will benefit the Converse College athletic program, which includes: transportation for athletes, new equipment, and program enhancements. Your support to the Converse All-Stars is appreciated! Gifts were donated by members of the Converse College Board of Trustees, Board of Visitors, Alumnae Association Board and many gracious friends.







Distinguished Alumna Award  
**Margaret Griffin  
Burch '61**

The Distinguished Alumna Award is given each year to a Converse alumna in recognition of outstanding achievement in her field, service to her community or society, and loyalty to Converse. Margaret Griffin Burch '61 of Greer, SC is the recipient of the 2006 award.

After becoming frustrated with the Greenville County (SC) School Board's inability to teach students with special education needs, she sought out potential school board candidates who could make a difference. In 1982, then US representative and future SC governor Carroll Campbell, Jr. encouraged Margaret to seek the Greer District 18 position on the board herself. She was the first woman elected to the board, became the first board chairman elected to two terms, and led efforts to net \$110 million in facilities for Greer. She ended her term in 2002 after serving for 20 years.

Under her leadership, the board received national attention from the American School Board Journal for its transformation into an effective team; successfully navigated flare-ups such as racial tensions, strikes by bus drivers, and the need of facilities for special needs and disadvantaged students; and established an international baccalaureate program for Greer schools.

During her tenure, Margaret was named Educator of the Year by various organizations, received the Outstanding Service Award from the SC Strings Teachers Association (1988), was named an Outstanding Citizen by the Woodmen of the World (1992), and included in the All-State School Board by the SC School Boards Association (1994). Upon her retirement, she was presented with the Order of the Palmetto, the highest award that can be bestowed upon a citizen of South Carolina.



Mae Kilgo Spirit Award  
**Marianna MacIntyre  
Taylor '81**

The Alumnae Association's Mae Elizabeth Kilgo Spirit Award is presented to a Converse graduate who has kept the spirit of the College visible to other alumnae and her community through her continued loyal service to her alma mater.

Marianna MacIntyre Taylor '81 has served Converse in various capacities. As Converse Fund class chair, she oversaw a 20% increase in class participation, and has volunteered her time and talents as alumnae board decade representative, development committee member, and member of the presidential inauguration committee. She has hosted get-togethers for her class during reunion weekend. She is currently serving on the Converse Board of Visitors. Most importantly, Marianna takes to heart the concept that Converse alumnae are the College's best recruiters by frequently referring students to the Office of Admissions.

Marianna's passion for supporting Converse is matched by her active community involvement. She has initiated and implemented Veteran's Day programs in various South Carolina towns; chaired the Patriotic Services Committee of the Spartanburg chapter of the Colonial Dames of America; led an initiative to transform a dilapidated house and lot into Spartanburg's first "Pocket Park" to benefit a local school district and church. In November, she took part in recovery and rebuilding efforts in the hurricane-ravaged sections of Mississippi, and in 2002 she volunteered a week of her time in New York City at the site of the World Trade Center attacks. For Junior League of Spartanburg, she is a sustaining member, has chaired fund development, and received the Provisional of the Year Award and the Mary Flowers Scott Smith Award.



Community Service Award  
**Louise Earle Oxner '61**

The Community Service Award is presented to a Converse alumna who displays the qualities of a vibrant citizen as evidenced in her active involvement in her community, church, and state. For her 33 years of continuous service to the community of her native Greenville (SC), Louise Earle Oxner '61 is this year's winner.

In a 1980 interview with The Greenville Piedmont, Louise said that volunteer service is "an essential element of life. It is important for both the giver and the receiver." In May 2000, she was inducted to The Order of the Jessamine, an award that honors women who are making a difference in their communities by doing work that benefits others.

She has served as president of Junior League Greenville and the Greenville Community Planning Council; chaired the Greenville Advisory Council, the Greenville Council on Aging, and the Greenville Literacy Association; served on the Boards of The United Way of Greenville, The Greenville Free Medical Clinic, Meals on Wheels, and the Community Foundation of Greenville. She coordinated the Greenville Reach to Recovery program (a breast cancer outreach of the American Cancer Society), was an organizing committee member of UpLift-Breast Cancer Support, and a longtime volunteer tutor for the Greenville Literacy Association.

She has served her church (Christ Episcopal Church) as the first woman senior warden; chairman of the task force to establish The Episcopal Book Store, its Board chairman, treasurer, and volunteer bookkeeper; president of Women of Christ Episcopal Church; and as a member of the church vestry.



Career Achievement  
**Amy Warren Beaty '81**

Each year, Converse salutes an alumna who has dedicated herself to excellence in her profession and has distinguished herself by notable achievement over a continual period of time. This year, we recognize Amy Warren Beaty '81 for her achievements in interior design.

After graduating with an art degree from Converse, Amy earned a graphic design degree from the Rhode Island School of Design. After working for several graphic design firms and advertising agencies, she focused all of her energies towards interior design.

In 1997, she joined The Glavé Firm in Richmond, VA as senior associate and design director. She served as project manager and senior interior designer on a number of projects for luxury resorts, an historical society, and a seminary. She later joined Rau and Associates—also in Richmond—where she carried out responsibilities of project manager and senior designer.

In 2001, Amy teamed with fellow Rau and Associates designer Carter Brown Williams to form Beaty and Brown Interior Design. The firm caters to hospitality business and has a client roster that includes The Library of Virginia, PGA National Resort & Spa (Palm Beach, FL), The Homestead (a luxury resort in Hot Springs, VA), Jepson Executive Alumni Center at Mary Washington University (Fredericksburg, VA), and The Village of Aberdeen (a planned community in Aberdeen, NC).



Career Achievement in Music  
**Ross Magoulas '56**

The Career Achievement in Music Award is presented to Ross Magoulas '56. Since earning his bachelor's in music from Converse and his master's in music from Florida State University in 1959, Ross has used his skills and talents as teacher, director, and performer.

He has taught voice at Berry College, Converse, the Brevard Music Center, Shorter College, and the College of Charleston. In August 2005, Berry College established the Ross Magoulas Music Scholarship.

He has taught voice at Berry College, Converse, the Brevard Music Center, Shorter College, and the College of Charleston. At the Brevard Music Center, he has performed in productions of "Pirates of Penzance," "The Mikado," "The Medium," and "The Gondoliers." He performed in "La Bohème" with the Charlotte Opera, "The Gondoliers" with the Columbia (SC) Lyric, a medley of Gilbert & Sullivan selections with the Phoenix (AZ) Symphony Orchestra, "Die Fledermaus" with the Atlanta Lyric Opera, "The Mikado" with the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra, "Fiddler on the Roof" at the Charleston Stage at Dock Street Theatre, and "The Music Man" at Spartanburg Repertory Theatre.

A resident of Johns Island, SC, Ross has directed at the Brevard Music Center, Spartanburg Repertory Theatre, Berry College, and Converse. In May, he will direct a production of "Pirates of Penzance" at Spartanburg Repertory Theatre. He has also served as music director at Rome (GA) Little Theatre for productions of "The King and I," "The Music Man," "Hello Dolly," and "My Fair Lady."



Converse 100 Award  
**Haidee Clark Stith '76**

First presented during the College's Centennial, the Converse 100 Award is given to alumnae who clearly represent the qualities of character and achievement that Converse alumnae hold as their ideal. Haidee Clark Stith '76 is one of this year's recipients.

Haidee is the executive director of the South Carolina Women's Business Center, an entrepreneurship program of the US Small Business Administration and subsidiary of the South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership. She also works as a private consultant with public and private firms in a variety of management roles. Her previous duties have been with the South Carolina Department of Commerce where she directed the division of research and grants, served as chief operating officer, and directed the advisory coordinating council for economic development. She has worked for the South Carolina Governor's Office as deputy director for the division of economic development, coordinator for the governor's initiative for work force excellence, coordinated the economic development component of the division of employment and training, deputy director for intergovernmental relations, and the governor's alternate to the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Haidee has served on the South Carolina Economic Developers Association; been active with the South Carolina Literacy Association, the Midlands Literacy Initiative, the Small Business Committee of the State Chamber of Commerce; and served as a Lexington County (SC) Juvenile Arbitrator.

During Reunion Weekend 2005, Haidee moderated a panel discussion of four Converse alumnae entrepreneurs who shared the struggles and triumphs of being their own boss. She has also offered internship opportunities for current Converse students.



Converse 100 Award  
**Mary Oeland  
Alexander '56**

For selfless giving to her community, Mary Oeland Alexander '56 is recognized with the Converse 100 Award.

Presently, Mary is a member of the Christian Unity committee, a group devoted to fostering racial love and harmony through Lee County (SC) churches; treasurer of the Committee for Progress and Understanding, a group that seeks to find avenues of creative involvement among different races; and teacher of a Sunday school class (which has been named in her honor) at Bethlehem United Methodist Church in Bishopville (SC). Also at Bethlehem United Methodist, Mary has served as chairperson of the Administrative Board and the Council of Ministries; delegate to the Annual Conference; president of the Women of the Church; and member of the Pastor-Parish Relationship Committee.

She is an active member of Junior Welfare League, March of Dimes, and the Lee County Arts Council Foundation through which she is leading an effort to fund an endowment for the Opera House in Bishopville.

Mary's service to Converse includes serving as class representative and active supporter of alumnae events.



Star Award  
**Betty Arthur  
Hardaway '71**

An alumna who has actively and admirably served Converse in the area of recruitment is given the Converse Star Award. This year's recipient is Betty Arthur Hardaway '71.

An enthusiastic cheerleader for Converse, Betty has hosted numerous Converse events in Florence, written notes to students whom have been accepted to Converse, and referred students in the Florence area to Converse. Betty is an important link for her fellow Converse alumnae by serving as club chair for the Pee Dee region of South Carolina. She has served on the Alumnae Board and the Records and Recognition Committee. She has also served as class fund chair.

Betty's community involvement includes membership with the Florence County Medical Association Alliance, serving as president of the Trinity Collegiate School Parent Guild, board member for the Florence County Mental Health Association, completing a nine-year tenure as treasurer of the Florentine Society, and being a charter member of Investors Anonymous.



**President Elect**  
**Nancy Bain Coté '79**  
Spartanburg, SC

- 1st Presbyterian Church Sunday School Teacher and Discipleship Small Group Leader
- Current volunteer for Converse, Spartanburg Day School, and Mobile Meals
- Past president of the Junior League of Spartanburg and Spartanburg Day School Parents' Club



**Converse II Representative**  
**Bryce Copeland Woodside '85**  
Greenville, SC

- First student enrolled in the Converse II Program
- Art instructor in Cortona, Italy for University of Georgia in 1989 and at Converse College from 1989-1990
- Owner and operator, Frances S. Woodside Studio and Gallery, downtown Greenville, SC



**2000's Decade Representative**  
**Bryce Copeland Martin '01**  
Simpsonville, SC

- Volunteer, March of Dimes
- Community volunteer
- Active member, Mitchell Road Presbyterian Church



**1980's Decade Representative**  
**Mary Helen Richbourg Earle '85**  
Greenville, SC

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



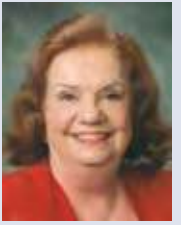
**1970's Decade Representative**  
**Haidee Clark Stith '76**  
Columbia, SC

- Founder and current Director, SC Women's Business Center
- Former COO, SC Department of Commerce and staff for Governor Carroll A. Campbell, Jr.
- Council Member, United Way of the Midlands' Education, Jobs and Life Skills



**1950's Decade Representative**  
**Doris Marley Laird '51**  
Tallahassee, FL

- Appeared in the 2005-2006 editions of Who's Who In America, Who's Who In American Women, Who's Who In American Education, and Who's Who In The World
- Retired professor of Humanities at FSU



**First Vice President (Nominating Committee Chair)**  
**Palmer Davison Ball '84**  
Spartanburg, SC

- Business Manager, Spartanburg Day School
- Speaker at national and summer conferences for Independent School Business Managers
- Junior League of Spartanburg Sustainer
- First Presbyterian Church Long Range Planning Committee



**Graduate Degree Representative**  
**Jeanette Carol Williams '96, '98 MED**  
Spartanburg, SC

- English instructor, Spartanburg Technical College
- Member, Junior League of Spartanburg, Arts X Society
- Pursuing Higher Education Administration degree at University of South Carolina



**2000's Decade Representative**  
**Wilesa Davis Wright '01**  
Durham, NC

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



**1980's Decade Representative**  
**Sally Jeter Hammond '81**  
Spartanburg, SC

- Active volunteer, Episcopal Church of the Advent, Pine Street Elementary School, and Converse
- Formerly with Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System



**1970's Decade Representative**  
**Elise Warren '75**  
Birmingham, AL

- Sales representative, Shred First
- Active member, Independent Presbyterian Church



**1940's Decade Representative**  
**Betty Jo Putnam Carpenter '49**  
Rutherfordton, NC

- President, The Symphony of Rutherford County
- 1999 Recipient of the Converse College Career Achievement in Music Award



**Second Vice President (National Club Chair)**  
**Mindy Thompson Orman '71**  
Nashville, TN

- Realtor, Prudential Woodmont Realty, Nashville, TN
- Co-photographer with husband Scott of Orman and Orman Photographers
- Past member, Board of Directors, Nashville Chapter of the American Red Cross



**Planned Giving Representative**  
**Erica "Candy" Patrice Moore '93**  
Fort Mill, SC

- VP/Director of Market Share Growth, Wachovia Mortgage Corporation
- Annual Giving Committee member, Junior League of Charlotte
- Organizational member, Friends of the Arts for the Afro-American Cultural Center of Charlotte, NC



**1990's Decade Representative**  
**Joy Adams Bethea '93**  
Columbia, SC

- Winter Festival 2006 chair
- VP of Membership, Junior League of Columbia
- Admissions Committee member, Hammond School
- 1st grade Sunday School teacher, Eastminster Presbyterian Church



**1980's Decade Representative**  
**Elena Pribyl Rush '84**  
Spartanburg, SC

- Director, Community and Economic Development Department for Spartanburg County
- Member, Board of Directors, National Association for County Community and Economic Development



**1960's Decade Representative**  
**Joe Ann Smith Cole '62**  
Charlotte, NC

- Former soprano soloist, Charlotte Oratorio
- Active supporter of the Charlotte music community
- Elder, Presbyterian Church



**1940's Decade Representative**  
**Kitty Peeler Carson '49**  
Union, SC

- Retired educator
- Active volunteer: church vestry, book club president, Union County Arts Council Board, Friends of the Library Board



**Secretary**  
**Grazier Connors Rhea '74**  
Rock Hill, SC

- Community Development Director, Catawba Regional Council of Governments
- Treasurer, Historic Rock Hill
- Immediate Past President, Debutante Club of Rock Hill



**2000's Decade Representative**  
**Jessica Case Holland '03**  
Irmo, SC

- Student, University of South Carolina School of Law
- Law clerk, Columbia, SC



**1990's Decade Representative**  
**Cynthia Greene Goldsmith '96**  
Charlotte, NC

- Interior Designer
- Volunteer, Christ Episcopal Church, The Children's Circle at Meyers Park UMC
- Member, Junior League of Charlotte



**1970's Decade Representative**  
**Nancy Boatwright Holt '79**  
Columbia, SC

- Sales Associate, Cucina
- Sunday School Teacher, Treasurer of Daughters of the Holy Cross, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
- PTO volunteer, Crayton Middle School



**1950's Decade Representative**  
**Nancy "Nan" Brown Foster '55**  
Spartanburg, SC

- Taught multihandicapped students for 27 years at South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind
- Board member since its inception, Ellen Hines Smith Girls' Home



**At-Large Member**  
**Wallace Davison '89**  
Austin, TX

- Payment Processing Manager, Supportkids, Inc.
- Elder, Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church
- Member, Junior League of Austin



**Golden Club President**  
**Nancy Sibley Dunn '54**  
Spartanburg, SC

- Retired school psychologist
- Board of Visitors, Montreat College
- Board of Friends of the Historical Foundation at Montreat, Inc.



**2000's Decade Representative**  
**Susanna Knight Roberts '00**  
Atlanta, GA

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



**1990's Decade Representative**  
**Jane Manning Hyatt '93**  
Belmont, CA

- Regional Director of the West for Thomson Education



**1970's Decade Representative**  
**Emily Jones Rushing '73**  
Birmingham, AL

- Communications Officer, The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham
- Member, Converse Board of Visitors



**1950's Decade Representative**  
**Harriet "Sister" Marshall Goode '59**  
Rock Hill, SC

- Owner of Gallery 5
- Lives in historic, restored bank building in which she hosts art events and parties for non-profit organizations
- Member of the Advisory Board, School of Visual and Performing Arts, Winthrop University



**At-Large Member**  
**Pamela Hughes Foster '96**  
Greenville, SC

- Private pilot
- Member, Greenville Woman's Club and Christ Episcopal Church
- Programming Contractor for Medals of America, Ltd. in Fountain Inn, SC

