Joyce Carol Oates
Elizabeth Boatwright Coker Visiting Writer
Reading and Book Signing

April 27, 2012
3:00 pm, Twichell Auditorium
Free Admission

Joyce Carol Oates is one of America’s most distinguished authors. John Gardner has called her “one of the greatest writers of our time.” In a work unlike anything she’s written before, Oates unveils a poignant, intimate memoir about the unexpected death of her husband and its wrenching, surprising aftermath. A Widow’s Story illuminates one woman’s struggle to comprehend a life without the partnership that had sustained and defined her for nearly half a century.

Exhibition & Artist’s Talk
Featuring
Jane Yarborough Creech ’60

An art exhibition featuring Converse alumna Jane Yarborough Creech ’60, whose work was selected for the cover of A Widow’s Story, will follow in Twichell lobby.

Jess Lee ’12
Effecting Positive Change in the World

New Book Club: Cover to Cover with Converse
“The Board challenges our graduates to Come Home to Converse—attend alumnae gatherings and Reunion and restart giving to the annual fund. Participation is key, no matter how large or small.”


“We alumnae understand the treasure they were given by receiving their education. It is important for us to thank Converse for all of this by supporting her through our gifts.”

Claudia Jowitt McCollough ’62

“We are ONE.

The ONE Challenge.

For every percentage point above last year’s giving percentage (23%) the Converse Board of Trustees will give $10,000 to our annual fund. Our participation right now is about 10%.

“I believe in paying it forward. It is important to me to give back to the school that provided me with so many great opportunities.”

Angela Stinson-Adams ’82

“Once you have given, contact ONE friend and encourage her to support the Converse Annual Fund. Ask 10 friends to call 10 friends. See if your class can be the first to increase our giving percentage by 1%!”

We are ONE.

Your ONE gift helps:

• Provide $3,000 toward the tuition of every student on campus
• Support the beautification and restoration efforts of our breathtaking grounds
• Provide funding for Converse II and Graduate programs
• Provide work study opportunities for students on campus
• Supply funding for campus life programming and student activities

Want to give? www.converse.edu/giveone or mail your donation to Allyson Tesh, Director of the Annual Fund, Converse College, 580 E. Main Street, Spartanburg, SC, 29302.

Want to help? Once you have given, contact ONE friend and encourage her to support the Converse Annual Fund. Ask 10 friends to call 10 friends. See if your class can be the first to increase our giving percentage by 1%!

Thousand Thanks Gala

Once a year, Converse leadership donors of $1,000 or more are celebrated for their financial contributions to the College. Speaking to the Thousand Thanks guests, President Betsy Fleming applauded their generosity: “The magic of this annual event, indeed the magic of this place, is nurtured by your love and loyalty to Converse.”
Effecting Positive Change in the World

Two To Tanzania

Jess Lee ‘12 and Sally Jeter Hammond ‘81 form “Team Converse” and cycle to break the cycle of violence against women in Africa.

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Our nationally decorated MAL is chosen to train others in Model League.

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Converse admits only women to undergraduate programs and services in accordance with its historical mission.

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Calling all Alumnae!

Each day, as I see the lives of our students burgeoning with new discoveries and possibilities, it is evident that Converse is well on her way to becoming a leading center for creative thinking and learning, and a community known for producing engaged citizens who effect positive change. In the classroom, in student organizations, in leadership positions, in studying abroad and on the playing field, Converse women are honing their capacity as creative thinkers and doers. They are expanding their global awareness and engagement. They are nurturing a personal vision of integrity that involves making a difference in the world.

This issue of Converse Magazine celebrates students and alumnae who, because of their experience at Converse, have activated their aspirations and voice. These women have achieved success while simultaneously working to advance a greater good. Reflecting upon the personal journey of each Converse woman within these pages, I am impressed by the clarity with which she attributes her growth, her connections and her accomplishments to her Converse experience.

During the past six years of my presidency, I have grown alongside Converse women in deepening my own commitment to building community through the advancement of women and girls. I have invested my full self in positioning Converse as a distinctive, affordable environment that empowers creative leaders for the 21st century. My days have been energized by conversations with and stories about you—alumnae sharing with me your love and appreciation for Converse, her single-gender mission, her recent advances and, of course, your incredible lasting friendships. I adore these discussions, but am also saddened by the striking disconnect between your affections and alumnae support of the College.

Alumnae giving to the annual fund at Converse is notably low when compared to such institutions as Wofford and Agnes Scott but even more when considered in the context of your individual and collective love and pride for Converse—the place that cultivated your
lifelong friendships, and that nurtured in each of you the confidence, courage and conviction to craft lives of personal and professional success. The Converse Annual Fund—when you were a student as well as now—provides absolutely integral funding to support student scholarships, to attract and retain faculty, and to keep lights on in the residence halls well after midnight.

Concerned about this disconnect between alumnae affection and investment, the Converse Board of Trustees has issued a challenge. For every one percent increase in alumnae giving participation this fiscal year (ending June 30), the Board will collectively give an additional $10,000 to the Converse Annual Fund. A total of 100 alumnae comprise one percentage point. Every gift matters in this challenge. My challenge to you is, quite simply, to give.

Give because of the incredible Converse friendships that have sustained you in both good and difficult times. Give because you received a scholarship as a student—without which you could not have afforded the Converse experience. Give because of a beloved faculty or staff mentor who helped you to find a true calling in life. Give because of your pride in the Converse women featured in this magazine and the difference that they are making in the world.

Step up to the challenge. Invest in Converse for her past, her present and her future. Join the Converse ONE campaign—ONE gift. ONE fund. ONE challenge. Let’s come together as ONE Converse, showing the Board, the community, our sisters and each other the depth of our affection for this institution and our commitment to her continuing to advance girls and women.

The ONE campaign is about the power of the possible. My dream is that this challenge can grow to encompass EVERY ALUMNA, EVERY YEAR. Start today Be the ONE.

With all best wishes,

Elizabeth A. Fleming, PhD
President

President Fleming speaks at TEDx

TED is a nonprofit that started in 1984 as a conference to bring together people from three worlds: Technology, Entertainment and Design. TED believes passionately in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives and ultimately, the world. TED.com is a free clearinghouse of the best talks and performances that offer knowledge and inspiration from the world’s most inspired thinkers, building a community of curious souls to engage with ideas and each other. Today, TED is best thought of as a global community welcoming people from every discipline and culture who seek a deeper understanding of the world.

The TEDx program gives communities, organizations and individuals the opportunity to stimulate dialogue through TED-like experiences at the local level. In September 2011, President Betsy Fleming spoke at a TEDx Spartanburg event about the impact of art in her childhood and why it continues to play a major role in her life.
Converse senior, Jess Lee and Sally Jeter Hammond, Vice President for Enrollment and Marketing and a 1981 alumna, recently stepped out in a big way to speak up for women. The two spent nine days cycling in Tanzania with globalbike, an international non-profit organization founded in Spartanburg. Committed to the idea that bicycles can be transformative in remote regions of the world, globalbike has made a number of trips to Africa. Each time, the funds they raise in the United States allow them to provide bikes for organizations that support the needs of women and families. In their latest venture, globalbike challenged representatives from key organizations and institutions in Spartanburg to go along for the ride.

As a newcomer to the cycling scene, Hammond had heard about this ride and learned it would be a targeted effort to raise awareness about issues of violence against girls and women. President Fleming and Hammond agreed that Converse should be involved. Fleming encouraged Hammond to go, and to take a student. “Jess is a Converse student who is passionate about being a global citizen,” said Hammond. “I have seen that in her work with the College’s Diversity Club.” Jess and Sally formed “Team Converse” and began earnestly training up to two hours per day.

From February 26–March 6, Jess and Sally rode mountain bikes alongside 10 other cyclists from Spartanburg and a dozen riders from Tanzania and Kenya to complete the 150-mile journey around the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro. This unlikely community of Americans and Africans not only changed each other's lives, they also put more than 100 new bikes in the hands of Tanzanians working to advance the lives of women and girls. The following are excerpts from the journals that Jess and Sally kept while they were in Africa.
Clockwise from top: Our team of cyclists preparing for morning stretches; a beautiful African woman; an average day of riding involved steep hills and muddy, rocky paths; we handed off our flag to a team that would climb Mt. Kilimanjaro (left).

Read Jess and Sally’s blog about their adventure at converseinafrica.tumblr.com
Jess’s Story

Traveling Light

I brought an open heart to Africa. I think that’s the very best thing I could have packed. There is a peace here that seems to be in the very soil. No cell phone signals, loud static or even heavy traffic. Life is certainly not easy here but there is an appreciation for every single breath.

Mama Sally

Several times during our ride Sally has slowed down to meet me as I was trying to take on a hill she had already conquered. I’m not sure if she will ever know how important she has been in my life. Her patience, love and fun spirit are a beacon of hope for me as I attempt to balance life, school and my new sport. I couldn’t do this trip without her.

Priceless

Several of the girls we are traveling with have stopped going to school because their families cannot afford the $150 in annual tuition. My education is the single most important element to my success. The words “Thank you” will never adequately describe how grateful I am for the experiences I have had at Converse. As I start off on my journey after college, I am strengthened by the investment that so many have made in my future.

The Boss

We are riding with a group of boys who were selected from their villages to learn the sport of cycling. This opportunity will give them chances they would never otherwise have. “Boss” is a 16-year-old from Kenya and we have spent many miles learning from one another. When I feel like there is absolutely-positively-not-a-chance that I am going to make it up one of the hills, Boss tells me I can and we do it together. Boss is an incredible coach and an unexpected one.

Change and Face the World

In order to eliminate some of the violent methods against women, there has to be a change in the way men see women. As we ride with the African boys and we speak to a number of men along the way, we are laying the groundwork for an understanding that not only do women have a stake in the success of a community, they have a role in which to develop it. These boys and men can be a part of the solution.
Sally’s Story

From Here to There

Our first daylight drive through the remote villages of East Africa affords us a glimpse of the “back woods” as we say in America. But, Americans don’t know back woods like the ones in Tanzania. We pass women clad in colorful clothes with buckets of bananas on their heads. The homes we see have no electricity, no running water, no indoor kitchen. I can’t imagine the hardships of the women who live here.

The Road Least Travelled

It won’t be long before our bus stops and spits us out to cycle up and down the hilly terrain of Tanzania. It’s hard to believe I am mountain biking at 53, in Africa no less. I have to wonder what I signed on for and how physically hard this trip will be. We got on our bikes today only to maneuver around volcanic rocks (small boulders, really) and navigate what look like pre-historic jungle paths. By nightfall, we’ll have ridden 27 kilometers in 95-degree heat with a monsoon thrown in for good measure.

Jess

Jess is a testament to what happens at Converse. She has been empowered by the experience that comes from a women’s college and she reminds me of me when I was a student. Jess has only been riding for a month, but she is determined to be strong. I am in awe of what she is contributing here.

Tabitha and Iddha

I have come to know two girls from Kenya. They are poised and articulate for their ages. They say their self-confidence is the result of an after-school program called Box Girls. “Boxing,” they tell me, “can give you focus and discipline and an outlet for fitness.” They say women in East Africa are voiceless.

The women cook over open fires, and wash clothes in buckets and streams. They are often abused at the hands of an intimate partner. How can I keep these precious girls from the same fate?

“We” Power

We leave Tanzania better for having been here: one hundred bikes for five organizations that help women and girls. We leave knowing that jargon like “cultural collaboration” and “transformative tourism” can mean something when descriptors like “them” and “us” take a back seat to “we.” Our team of cyclists broke through language, ethnic and cultural barriers to become a singular community working for a common goal. I am bringing home lessons in courage, lessons about the power of what people can do together.

Lake Chala

Our team of cyclists broke through language, ethnic and cultural barriers to become a singular community working for a common goal.

-Sally
The Converse College Model Program is the national power in Model Arab League and on a world scale in International Model NATO. Now the College has taken on a global role as trainers of how to run and participate in diplomatic simulations. Converse seniors Hilary Berry and Sarah Warrick travelled to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, where they spent four days training students how to be successful delegates in a high school-level Model Arab League which will be held in November, 2012 in Dubai.

This past October, Berry and Warrick traveled with Converse Model Programs sponsor, Dr. Joe P. Dunn, to Amman, Jordan and Dubai where they conducted two days training in each city. Last year, three Converse students helped organize and run the first Mubadara Model Arab League in Aqaba, Jordan. The Mubadara MAL is sponsored by Beyond Discovery, an Amman-based company that specializes in programs to address issues facing today’s youth. The company focuses on three components—creativity, action, and service. The Mubadara MAL is the new flagship creativity activity.

This was not Converse’s first time running Model Arab Leagues in the region. In 2004 and 2005, Converse students ran high school models that took place at the Modern Montessori School in Amman, Jordan. When the teacher who organized those models left the school, the MAL waned. In 2010 Beyond Discovery resurrected the MAL and took it to a larger scope.

“The skills I’ve learned through Model League extend far beyond the debate floor. This program has taught me leadership, self-reliance, and initiative,” said Berry, who serves as the Secretary-General of the National Model Arab League and the Secretary-General of International Model NATO, both held in Washington, DC. Converse administers International Model NATO as the permanent Secretariat that supplies all the committee chairs and other model officers. Warrick is the Secretary-General of the Southeast MAL, held annually at Converse. Both women serve as co-head delegates of the Converse delegation, which has an unbroken record of Outstanding Delegation awards at both models for more than a decade.

Berry and Warrick found their two trips to the Middle East fascinating. Each location was unique in the issues working with young students. In all three venues, they were particularly impressed with the talents, energy and personalities of the young women. “I see a future for myself that involves many work-related trips to the Middle East,” said Warrick. “Having traveled to the region twice now, I am fully invested in it. I have the itch to continue my travels to the Arab world and help promote positive change throughout the region.”

On the heels of this trip, the Converse delegation hosted the Southeast MAL in March. More than 200 participants comprising twenty-one delegations from schools in Georgia, Alabama, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina and Massachusetts competed. As usual, Converse’s Morocco delegation received the Outstanding Delegation Award; the Converse’s second delegation, representing Kuwait, composed of primarily first-year delegates received Honorable Mention distinction.
Semester at Sea Scholar Studies the World

Converse student Ashley Blount ’13, traveled from her hometown on the Gulf Coast of Alabama and circumnavigated the globe. As a Tutu Scholar for Semester at Sea this past fall, she also met Desmond Tutu and toured parts of South Africa with Bishop Peter Story, prison chaplain to Nelson Mandela. “I still can’t believe I did all that,” gasped Blount. “I had not even been to much of the US!” Blount was nervous when she started the first leg of her tour but there was camaraderie amongst the students. “We were all in the same boat,” she laughed.

Blount heard about the Semester at Sea program when a representative came to campus. The non-profit Institute for Shipboard Education has launched 100 Semester at Sea voyages, educated more than 50,000 students from 1,500 institutions, and traveled to more than 60 countries. As the world’s premiere shipboard education program, the organization’s mission is to educate individuals with the global understanding necessary to address the challenges of our interdependent world.

Determined to be a part of the next voyage, Blount repeatedly applied for many scholarships that she didn’t receive. “Lots of prayer went into my efforts and then I heard I was selected for the Tutu Scholarship.” The Desmond Tutu Program in Global Understanding honors the Nobel Laureate Archbishop Tutu’s lifelong contributions to global awareness and intercultural understanding. Each fall semester, only one Tutu scholarship is awarded. “Wow. Me?” Blount thought. She was surprised and grateful. The Tutu scholarship combined with her Chapman scholarship and other scholarships from Converse transferred to complete her tuition costs.

Semester at Sea’s unique shipboard program integrates multiple-country study, interdisciplinary coursework, and hands-on field experiences for meaningful engagement in the global community. “Being in the places we were studying was like living a part of history,” said Blount. “For my Ethics and US Foreign Policy course we went to Hiroshima and the Peace Museum. In South Africa we saw the lingering remnants of apartheid.”

Blount knew Semester at Sea would change her life. “I started the voyage wondering how I would incorporate my skills and passions in my career.” Her experiences reaffirmed her decision to study Politics at Converse. “I now know the reason why I am studying these materials. I have a passion for democracy and the expression of freedoms. I learned first-hand how democracy in America relates to other countries in the world.”

This summer, Blount will attend the prestigious Ralph Bunche Summer Institute at Duke University. An elite group of twenty minority students are selected annually for this powerful program designed to recruit and prepare minorities to pursue graduate work in political science at the top graduate programs in the field.

Ashley’s Semester at Sea Ports of Call

Montreal, Canada
Casablanca, Morocco
Accra (Tema), Ghana
Cape Town, South Africa
Port Louis, Mauritius
Chennai, India
Penang, Malaysia
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Hong Kong, China
Shanghai, China
Kobe, Japan
Yokohama, Japan
Hilo, Hawaii
Puntarenas, Costa Rica
(Panama Canal Transit)
Roatan, Honduras
Where in the World Are the Women of The Model League?

The success stories of Converse students and alumnae never cease to wow us. The breadth of your accomplishments and the depth of your professional expertise is the stuff that makes eyes pop and jaws drop. We spoke with four young alums that made a name for themselves in the College’s highly-renowned Model Arab League. Today, these globetrotting women, with jobs in the world of high-level diplomacy, are proof positive that the most competitive playing fields in the world are stomping grounds for Converse graduates.

**What (about the real world) has been the biggest surprise to you since graduating?**

**Casey** I continue to marvel at how four years at a small liberal arts women’s college in South Carolina prepared me to take on everything from The University of Texas to Capitol Hill to the US State Department to the United Nations!

**Tina** To be honest, Converse has prepared me exceptionally well for the “real world,” so I don’t think there have been too many major surprises!

**Yosi** Watching the wave of demonstrations and protests unfold in the Arab world (known as The Arab Spring). Autocratic leaders who rule for decades, the absence of basic political rights and freedoms, high unemployment and the catalytic effect of social media—has finally culminated in a transnational revolution. I was able to connect the dots because of my role and experience in Model League.

**Catch us up on where you are right now and what you are doing.**

**Casey** I am a Foreign Service Officer with the US Department of State at the US Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. I work on human rights in the Middle East, but I also cover a variety of thematic issues including Freedom of Assembly, Human Rights Defenders and LGBT issues. I often find myself saying, “I can’t believe this is my life.”

**Yosi** I work for the African Development Bank, an international development institution that invests in poverty reduction and economic growth within the continent. I provide support on results measurement and reporting for the bank’s investments in various sectors including agriculture and food security, health, education and state capacity building.

**Tina** After Converse, I received a degree in Public Policy and Public Affairs at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore and at Sciences Po Paris. For the past three years, I have been working for Goldman Sachs on the Asia Equities sales desk in Singapore, covering all Asian markets excluding Japan. It is a fast-paced career where one always has to stay on top of what is happening in the world, hence a great fit for me!

**Mahal** I am currently working at the UN Women’s Liaison office for the African Union and UN Economic Commission for Africa in Ethiopia. I am doing field research on the role of health providers in the fight to end violence against women and the obstacles that prevent them from providing appropriate reproductive health services to women survivors of violence.
Dr. “Model League” Dunn

Dr. Joe Dunn has been the sponsor of the Converse Model Programs for 25 years. He tirelessly advances the program and the lives of its student participants. “The remarkable young women who are involved in the Model Programs are difference makers and they will be for the rest of their lives.” Revered by his students, who use words like inspiring, iconic and irascible to describe him, Joe Dunn is as much an institution at Converse as the award-winning debate program that has become synonymous with his name. “Dr. Dunn, is a unique combination of teacher, father and friend,” said Yosi Weldemedhin ‘08. The Converse Model League has earned a reputation for slaying competitors such as University of California-Berkeley, United States Military Academy, and Harvard. A member of the Converse faculty since 1976, Dr. Joe Dunn is the Charles A. Dana Professor of History and Politics and Chair of the History and Politics Department. He has a long list of former students he now counts as friends, women, he says, who will always be a source of joy and pride.

What are the most valuable lessons you’ve learned since leaving Converse?

Casey Be audacious. Be confident. Dream big. An enormous university like The University of Texas, the halls of the US Congress, the White House and the United Nations can all be intimidating places for a small town, Southern girl! Converse gave me the tools; it was up to me to use them. This world is no place for timid women.

Mahal In whatever you do, be honest and dependable. Invest in friendships and people that matter to you and do your best to be in their lives. Travel the world and see new places. Challenge your preconceptions and convictions. Take risks for things you believe in but above all, never settle for something that doesn’t make you happy.

What about being a “Model Leaguer” has contributed to your success?

Tina Converse is an institution that enables students to think big and exceed their own expectations. Model League trains students in the art of debating, defending a view and speaking up for themselves, all of which are crucial for succeeding in the real world. Coming from a small town in Germany to attend college in South Carolina, I could never have imagined that I would find myself sitting on a trading floor in Asia!

Mahal When we want to learn about something new and want to explore further, we leave behind the books in the libraries and immerse ourselves in countries and situations we are trying to understand. That opens a whole new door of understanding and enlightenment and shapes us to be who we are becoming every day.

What do you miss most about life on the Converse College campus?

Casey I miss the people most of all. My friends (now scattered around the world), my professors (most of whom are still working hard shaping the women leaders of tomorrow), and the staff contribute to a place that is so much more than just an educational institution.

Tina Now that we are all doing great things in different parts of the world, I have come to realize how precious those four years at Converse really were when our friends were just down the hall.

Yosi I miss my friends, the simplicity of college life and the excitement of a school dance. I miss the classroom environment where students are encouraged to form and voice their opinions. I miss the chocolate chip cookies in Gee dining hall!
School of the Arts Launches with Mozart Comedy

With a unique community celebration, Converse introduced the new School of the Arts on November 18–20 at Chapman Cultural Center in Spartanburg. The event featured a sampling of talents in the visual arts, music, theatre and dance and Converse Opera Theatre’s production of Mozart’s comic opera, *Cosi fan tutte* (sung in English).

“*Cosi fan tutte* is one of the last comic operas that Mozart produced and time has proven it to be among the most endearing,” said Becky Turner, Director of Converse Opera Theatre. “Our performance was designed to shift people’s perception about opera and make it relatable and accessible to all audiences.”

“I had never been to an opera before but it looked like fun so I went. Who knew I would like opera?” remarked Cveta Picarova, Director of Residential Life and First Year Programs.

“That’s exactly what we wanted to accomplish,” said Director Stafford Turner. “Who would have thought of Mozart in a contemporary West Texas diner? The story is timeless, adaptable, and very funny.” Turner adapted the comedy to take place in “The Roasted Armadillo” where waitressing sisters, “Flodalucy” and “Dorabeulla,” are thrown into despair as their fiancés, “T-Franke” and “Bill Bubba,” are suddenly called away on business. However, it is all part of an elaborate charade facilitated by their friend “Darlena” and boss, “Mister Marlow” to challenge the sisters’ fidelity. The men return in disguise to woo each other’s intended, and while at first the ladies are steadfast, their resolve begins to slowly melt away.

“The traditional *Cosi fan tutte* translation is over 50 years old and antiquated,” said Turner. “It’s also rather boring for such a funny piece. My adaption omits the more risqué and sexist story lines and some small additions added to the spirit of the humor. It was a blast to see something I’ve been chewing on for 10 years come out exactly as I had envisioned it.” Dual casts allowed double the number of students to participate. Stafford explained that *Cosi* was a great ensemble production for students because the roles were equally weighted and the music was accessible for young singers.

“*Cosi fan tutte* was a perfect centerpiece for our launch celebration because it embodies our belief that the arts flourish most when they are more than standalone activities,” said Richard Higgs, Dean of the School of the Arts. “This was a major step toward realizing our goal to engage more deeply with the broader cultural community. Our focus is on creating new collaborations that are grounded in common goals, such as building on our successful opera and theatre programs to introduce a musical theatre major this fall.”
All in the Timing was All-Out Fun!

In September, Converse faculty and staff presented *All in the Timing* by David Ives. This collection of six short plays blended wit, intellect, satire and just plain fun into an evening of great comedy! Director Brent Glenn said the short plays were a perfect fit for demanding schedules. “This was the first time we dedicated a production to an all-faculty and staff cast. We assigned parts last year so they would have the summer to learn their lines.”

Meredith Hardwicke, Converse Admission Counselor, said, “It was great interacting with the faculty and staff on a completely different level, and I know that it was fun for the Converse community to see us in roles outside of our daily routine.” Was it strange to perform in front of the student body? “Not at all,” said Dr. Kevin DeLapp, Professor of Philosophy. “Teaching IS a kind of performing.”

“Everyone was marvelous,” Glenn said of the cast. “It was all about coming together and having fun.”

*All in the Timing* is “Theatre which aerobicizes the brain and tickles the heart. Ives is a comic who has put the play back in playwright.”

~Time Magazine
BIG Youth Summit Inspires Youth to Believe in College

The Converse campus welcomed Spartanburg District III middle and high school students to the first Believe in Greatness (BIG) Summit in March. It was a day led by area college students to provide their younger peers leadership and character development opportunities while reinforcing the role of higher education in their futures.

“The BIG Summit is based on building a ‘yes, I can’ attitude about going to college,” said Ashley Page ’13, BIG founder and leader of the student planning committee. “BIG embodies four principles: Education, Character, Leadership and Confidence. We want students to believe they can go to college. Then we can help them with the tools to reach their goals.”

The summit held education sessions covering topics such as “Healthy Body, Healthy Minds,” “Goal Setting” and “Getting Involved on Your High School Campus and Broader Community.” College admission representatives were also on hand for a mini college fair.

“The BIG Summit offers something new and unique to Spartanburg, with a program planned and presented by college students specifically for their community,” added College Hub Executive Director and BIG adviser Carrie DuPre. “Adults can tell students all day long that they can be successful, but at the end of the day, having college students who were right where they were not too long ago will make the most impact.”

High school students attended a panel discussion of local residents who remained here after earning their college degrees. Questions covered the spectrum of college life, from picking the right school and talking to professors, to time management and balancing social pressures with academics. Kimberly Smith ’06 enjoyed serving on the panel. “We illustrated many different college experiences and showed students that college is what you make of it; everyone has a different path.” Jacob Powell, 15, a Broome High School student said the panel was his favorite part of the day. “They taught the importance of education and how it’s the key to a bright future,” he said.

The theme of believing in your own greatness and staying true to your goals continued throughout the day. “I learned to never stop trying,” said Josh Morgan, 14, a student at Middle School of Pacolet.

Participants may engage in follow-up social and community service activities to reinforce the peer-to-peer connections established at the summit. “The students are excited and already asking when we will meet again,” said Page. “They are ready!”

BIG Summit organizers plan for future summits to rotate among area colleges and universities to highlight Spartanburg county efforts to increase higher education attainment. BIG was sponsored by Converse College, College Hub, the Spartanburg County Foundation and Sodexo.

For more information, email B.I.G.spartanburg@gmail.com or visit Believe In Greatness on Facebook.
Love-packed February sparked a Love-In photo contest sponsored by the Diversity Initiatives Coalition and Student Government Association. Arnisha White ’14 and Jess Lee ’12 spearheaded the event. “We wanted people to use their creativity through pictures to express their love for diversity and how they viewed it here at Converse,” said White. “I loved looking at the photos and seeing how diversity at Converse was captured through their eyes. It was a phenomenal experience to be on the other side looking in.”

White explained that behind the great photos were the fun collaborations with friends and residence halls to create some of the images. “So many were excited to participate in a person’s piece and to really grasp their ideas of diversity.”

The winners of the contest were announced at a “Giving Back Love” reveal party. Admission to the event was one canned good item to be donated to the Spartanburg Soup Kitchen.

3rd place: Laura Feltner
2nd place: Jasmine Middlebrooks
1st place: Anushka Senanayake
4th place: Anushka Senanayake
5th place: Maya James
Recognition of Black History Month was organized by the African-American Student’s Association (AAAS). Kara Lee-Deloatch ’13, President, said the focus this year was to have relaxed, fellowship-building events throughout the month. “We began with a scavenger hunt during ‘Montgomery by Moonlight’ at the start of the term. We also presented movies produced by or starring African-Americans, Girls Night In, Game Night and a 90s Party. Our centerpiece was a Pathways performance by Brenda Porter.”

Pathways is a one-woman multi-media presentation that tells the stories of exceptional women in American History who accepted life challenges and made a difference. “Pathways introduced the audience to a diverse group of African-American women such as Mary Fields, Edmonia Lewis, Wilma Rudolph, Bessie Coleman, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells and Barbara Jordan,” said AAAS advisor Rev. Jason Loscuito, College Chaplain.

“Our goal was to have fun and to invite everyone to participate. AAAS is open to anyone who has an interest in African-American history or culture,” said Lee-Deloatch. “We also enjoy service projects such as working at the Habitat for Humanity Restore and assisting Spartanburg’s Soup Kitchen.”

Converse Offers Energy and Climate Change Online Studies

Converse education professor Dr. Wayne Cheser is passionate about advancing elementary school children’s awareness of energy and climate change issues—so much so that he spent two years researching and filming a set of DVDs for teachers that provide models of best teaching practices. The DVDs are a centerpiece of his graduate-level course, EDU 585—Advanced Methods in Elementary Science: Energy Education and Climate Change, which will be part of Converse’s online graduate curriculum for the first time this summer.

“Energy and climate change education should be a priority in public education,” Cheser said. “Here in South Carolina, trains loaded with coal that are headed for coal-fired steam power plants, seven nuclear power stations that dot the countryside, and hydroelectric dams that shape the landscape are sources of energy not clearly understood by most elementary students and teachers. Methane from local landfills fuel local industries, and wind turbines and solar panels are more frequently appearing in this area,” Cheser explained.

“Teachers need to be equipped with the knowledge and tools to energize students. Most adults in our culture have very little information about the science of carbon-based fuels, the effects of the industrial revolution on our atmosphere, the strategic role of ice in moderating the planet’s temperature, etc. My goal is to shed as much non-political light on these topics and concepts as possible.”

Shelley Robbins of Upstate Forever, a nonprofit organization that promotes sustainable communities and clean air and water, praised the course noting, “Dr. Cheser’s work is much needed in South Carolina, where per capita energy consumption is higher than the national average. And there is no better place to start teaching these systems and scientific relationships than in our elementary schools and junior highs where students are first learning biology, chemistry and physics as well as what a complex biological system our planet is. These kids are South Carolina’s future leaders, policy makers and voters. They need to understand that they are not powerless and that daily decisions do matter.”

For more information about Converse online graduate studies, visit online.converse.edu
The Converse College Equestrian Program’s second year in the ring proved an outstanding showing for the young team. Converse hosted the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Region 5, Zone 2 competition at their training facility, Motlow Creek Equestrian Center in Campobello, SC in March.

The overall team ranking for the year was 5th out of 18 teams. Three riders qualified for regionals: Meredith Walker ’14, Kathleen Coker ’14 and Cate Billings ’15. Four riders qualified for the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association All-Academic Team: Meredith Walker and Christa Martin qualified for team one. Kathleen Coker and Cate Billings qualified for team two. Billings also qualified for zone competition, as well as nationals. She was region high point winner in the most competitive open division and automatically qualified for the IHSA National Horse Show to be held in May. She will compete in the prestigious Cachionne Cup Equitation Class. “Only the top collegiate riders are invited to ride in this event. As a freshman, Cate brings to Converse a level of riding that most colleges never achieve,” said Sally Frick, Equestrian Program Director.

“Our future is very bright,” said Frick. “Recruiting for the fall of 2012 is going well because of our excellent show record. Good riders want to come to Converse and ride with our team and coaching staff.”

Season highlights:

- Nine new school records
- Fifth straight semester Team Scholar All-American Award
- Seven All-Conference Academic Swimmers
- Six swimmers named to the fall Dean’s List
- Two All-Academic All-Americans
- Two All-Academic All-American Honorable Mentions

The Valkyries finished the year 5th in the conference out of 14 teams and had the most ever qualify for the NCAA National Championships. At Conference, Meghan Calvaruso ’15 placed 5th in 200 Backstroke; Rhiannon Gluhosky ’14 was 2nd in 400IM and 3rd in 200IM; Jenni Russell ’13 placed 5th in 100 Breaststroke and 2nd in 200 Breaststroke; and Jess Mason was 3rd in 100 Backstroke. Russell and Gluhosky both earned All-American.

Cate Billings qualified for nationals and will compete in the Cachionne Cup Equitation Class.
This fall we are excited to kick-off our Converse book club! Each year Converse will invite alums all over the country to read the C2C book selection and host a discussion in their area. Meetings will take place in the month of October and information regarding dates, times and locations will be mailed to alumnae/i.

“We are very pleased that our first C2C selection is The Iguana Tree, the debut novel by Converse alumna Michel Smoak Stone ’99 MEd. The Iguana Tree has already received national attention with fabulous reviews and has been selected by the Converse faculty as the Freshman Read for the incoming Class of 2016,” said Sally Spencer, Donor Relations Manager. “We will be reading along with the Converse freshman class!”

Stone is thrilled by the selection, “I treasured my time at Converse; several of my Converse instructors were instrumental in my becoming a writer. To have my book selected is a bit dreamy for me. I’m incredibly honored and grateful.”

If you are interested in hosting a Cover to Cover event in your area, please call the Office of Alumnae and Donor Relations at 800.584.9098 or email Carrie Coleman at carrie.coleman@converse.edu. To purchase a copy of The Iguana Tree please visit the Hub City Bookshop at www.hubcity.org/bookshop.

**The Iguana Tree**
**by Michel Stone ’99**
*Hub City Press, 2012*

Michel Stone’s debut novel, set against the backdrop of illegal immigration, is one family’s story of fateful decisions, risky border crossings, and a struggle for humanity. With a dream of a more prosperous life for his family, Héctor crosses into America on a harrowing journey that leads to a job on a tree farm on Edisto Island, SC. He tells his young wife, Lilia, to stay behind with their newborn until he can pay for their travel. Impulsive and impatient, Lilia abandons her village, hands off her baby to a smuggler, and swims the dark Rio Grande. The tragedy unfolds across the southern United States. Kirkus Reviews calls The Iguana Tree “exceptional... a haunting tale of hope and heartbreak.” Stone’s tale shows the devastating consequences of Lilia’s and Héctor’s decisions and also the consequences of decisions we have made as a society and as a nation.

Stone has published more than a dozen stories and essays in journals, magazines and books. Her work has appeared numerous times in the Raleigh News and Observer’s emerging Southern writers series. She is a 2011 recipient of the South Carolina Fiction Project Award, given by the South Carolina Arts Commission. She is an alumna of the Sewanee Writers’ Conference. The Iguana Tree is her first book and it’s a winner, according to Library Journal—“Stone successfully conveys her characters’ sense of hopelessness, betrayal, and loss and their struggle to preserve their integrity against all odds. This compassionate yet unsentimental story recalls the works of John Steinbeck.”

The Iguana Tree is a spring Okra Pick by the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance and is the Converse College Freshman Read.

**Artists Among Us: 100 Faces of Art in Spartanburg**
**Ed. Edward Emory and Stephen Stinson**
*Hub City Press, 2011*

Nearly a third of the artists included in Artists Among Us are Converse alumni or faculty members. The 224-page book features their photographs, artwork and their personal stories. Editor Edward Emory conceived of the photo project as a way to give attention to Spartanburg visual arts. He enlisted local photographer Stephen Stinson to bring it to life.
A Day in Ducky’s Shoes

By Chelsea Totten ’12
illustrated by
Bailey Szustak ’13

Converse students Chelsea Totten ’12 and Bailey Szustak ’13 created A Day in Ducky’s Shoes for children age three to nine who are struggling to manage their diabetes. “We are hoping to see a positive correlation between the use of our book and improved results for patients,” author Totten said.

The book introduces children to Ducky, a friendly, relatable character illustrated by Szustak. Readers accompany Ducky through a healthy daily routine and good meal choices. The book includes a diabetes dictionary, which gives young patients easily understandable definitions to medical terminology.

The Medical University of South Carolina contacted Dr. Janice Nashatker with the idea of working with Converse students to create a book for children coming to the clinic. Converse faculty recommended Totten and Szustak for the project and it evolved into a South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities grant involving MUSC, Nashatker and Dr. Lisa Schoer.

A Widow’s Story:
A Memoir

By Joyce Carol Oates,
Cover Photo Illustration by Jane Yarborough Creech ’60

Converse alumna Jane Yarborough Creech ’60 has travelled the country making photographs of some of the greatest 20th century American writers including Pulitzer Prize nominated and National Book Award winning author, Joyce Carol Oates. One of her latest works, The Haunting, was selected as the cover of Oates’ memoir, A Widow’s Story.

In a work unlike anything she’s written before, Joyce Carol Oates unveils a poignant, intimate memoir about the unexpected death of her husband and its wrenching, surprising aftermath. A Widow’s Story illuminates one woman’s struggle to comprehend a life without the partnership that had sustained and defined her for nearly half a century. Here is a frank acknowledgment of the widow’s desperation—only gradually yielding to the recognition that “this is my life now.”

Creech first met and photographed Oates during a speaking engagement at Converse. A few years later, Creech had the opportunity to photograph the famous author again. Oates was impressed with one blurry, dual image of herself that was taken while she was speaking. In an interview with Kristi Eaton of the Greenville Journal Watchdog, Oates described Creech’s photo of her as “a recognizable image and yet a powerful poetic expression of an inner state, in this case the sense of a shattered or disintegrating self following an unexpected shock. There was no other image that I saw that even came near this one in terms of identification and eerie, unnerving beauty of form, tone and color.” It is quite an honor to have her photo selected, Creech said, as it puts her in good company with other well-regarded artists whose work has appeared on previous Joyce Carol Oates’ covers.

During Reunion Weekend, Joyce Carol Oates will offer a reading from A Widow’s Story. An art exhibition featuring Creech will follow the reading. This creative writing program event is free and open to the public. For more information visit converse.edu/reunion.
Happy Birthday Heath!

January 2011 heralded the opening of The Heath apartment living at Converse with champagne and balloons. A year later, the campus is still celebrating one of the most sophisticated residential environments in the country. Ask the seniors who live there and you’ll hear a list of superlatives from “cool” to “cozy” to “contemporary.”

Briana Mattison and her friends picked out their preferred apartment while the Heath was still under construction. “We didn’t end up in that apartment but we love our apartment even more.” Even if her roommate, JoAnne Switzer, is getting a tan on the balcony or another roommate, Marissa Griffin, has spread out her studies in the living room, they often come together in the kitchen.

Current juniors are excited, too, as they anticipate their senior year in the apartments. “I am going to enjoy every minute of it,” said Lisa Stewart. “I know how much better it will be than anything we will have when we first graduate.”

Lisa Ryan said living in The Heath has been “a stepping stone to real life.” Amy Peele agrees, “I feel like now I will be able to take on the responsibilities of a place of my own.”

A Courtyard is Born

Lauded as the College’s Centennial Class, the alumnae of 1989 have formally laid claim to that name with the establishment of a new Centennial Courtyard on back campus. Class members Elisabeth Kinney McNiel and Tania McDuffie, (who helped lead the $52,000 fundraising effort) are thrilled with the space they have created. “We look forward to seeing it being enjoyed by the College, by alumnae and donors and most especially, by current students.” With temperatures rising, it won’t be long before the grill gets a workout and the nearby hammocks, donated by the Class of 2010, are already in full swing!
Honor and Memorial Gifts
July 1, 2011 - December 31, 2011

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Brian Tatro

ELIZABETH BULL BALTHAZOR '95
Mr. and Mrs. William Haynsworth Bull

MARY BRADFORD BARRY '55
Hagood Huckabee Potter '55

MORGAN ELIZABETH BYRN '10
William Womack Byrn, Jr.

JOSEPHINE P. CAPERS
Johanna Woods Dantzler '69

MARION RIVERS CATO '65
David Cato
Joseph Cato
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Cato

GINGER CORBIN CHURCH '92
Elisabeth Kinney McNiel '89

MELANIE MEYER CLARK '11
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gregory Meyer

CLASS OF 1949
Mary Ellen Sitton Yeargin '49

CLASS OF 1957
Jane Powell Crowder '57

CLASS OF 1968
Blair Blackwell Cooper '68

CLASS OF 2007
Laura Caroline Goodman '07

CLASS OF 2010
Nicole Marie Dumouchel '10

CLASS OF 2011
Ashley Danielle Raines '11

JENNIFER GEORGE COOK '74
Jackie Fowler George '64

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Dr. Martha Elaine Rogers
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RACHEL NG HANSEN '08
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(Irene K. Johnson)

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GAYLE G. MAGRUDER
Mary Rebecca Boyter '72
Elizabeth Blanton Lewis '72
Dr. Malinda Maxfield Tulloh

DR. NATHANIEL MAGRUDER
Dr. Malinda Maxfield Tulloh
In the life of any institution, one can identify a handful of individuals whose contributions have shaped and defined the nature of that institution and whose presence has left an indelible mark upon it. Such a person is Joe Ann Shearer Lever, who retired from Converse in 2002 following 40 years of service. Joe Ann's passing on November 23, 2011 is a great loss to Converse College and the broader community; but more importantly, it is an important opportunity to celebrate a life well-lived.

“The first time I met Joe Ann Lever was in 1973, she was wearing a lab coat, red vinyl go-go boots and a blond wig,” recalls Sharon Lambert, Associate Professor Emerita of Chemistry. “It was my job interview and that was my first impression of Converse!” laughs Lambert. “She became my mentor, friend and partner in crime. We were always on the same wavelength so we were able to accomplish a lot for the College.”

Dean Lever's contributions were built on a record of day-by-day and year-by-year subtle but significant actions and decisions that made a difference in what the College is and how it sees itself as unique. What makes Dean Lever’s accomplishments especially noteworthy is that she was—by inclination and experience—a teacher at heart. This daughter of Mississippi came to Converse in 1962 as an instructor in the Biology Department. She advanced to Associate Professor of Biology and made her mark on hundreds of students who have gone on to influential lives. Bonnie Bailey Webster ‘94, a biology alumna, remarked, “It has been said that a teacher can shape a student, and a student can shape the world. The world is a better place for the countless number of women Joe Ann Lever has shaped—among them mothers, nurses, doctors, teachers, scientists and community leaders.”

Joe Ann Shearer Lever 1936-2011
Along the way to her position as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, she served the College in a meritorious fashion as president of the Faculty Senate, Chairwoman of the Tenure and Promotions Committee, Adviser to pre-medical and pre-dental students, Chairwoman of academic advisers, Director of the Office of Career Services, and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. In every role, she was an effective leader, a tireless worker, a congenial colleague, and a defender of both liberal education and the absolute right of capable women to step to the front of the line. “There was not a single decision she made that wasn’t in the best interest of the College,” remarks Dr. Joe Dunn, Charles A Dana Professor of History & Politics. “She was incredibly frugal. When cell phones first came out, Joe Ann used her personal cell phone minutes to make calls on behalf of Converse so that the College would save money. She made sure she used every minute every month.”

The Converse community is profoundly grateful for what she meant to this institution as a colleague, administrator and friend. Joe Ann Lever left her indelible mark on each of us.

Those who had the privilege of working with Joe Ann know of her boundless energy, can-do attitude, unwavering dedication to Converse and complete commitment to the students. “We called her The Little Dean,” Thomas R. McDaniel, Senior Vice President remembers. “But that was a frivolity that she welcomed and appreciated since everyone knew that her influence was far from little.”

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KYRA LEIGH WOODYARD ’14
Mr. and Mrs. John Oliver Woodyard, Jr.

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Laura Alley Dietrich ’74

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Mary Adams Hemsworth ’76

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(Nancy Brown Foster ’55)
Mr. and Mrs. J. Tom Grier
(Dorothy Ormond ’50)
Elisabeth Kinney McNiel ’89
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Rhea III
(Grazier Connors ’74)

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Catherine Culler Inabnit ’68
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Florence Covington Fitzgerald ’80

TENNESSEE CALHOUN CRAWFORD ’23
Martha Williams DeCaro ’70

Along the way to her position as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, she served the College in a meritorious fashion as president of the Faculty Senate, Chairwoman of the Tenure and Promotions Committee, Adviser to pre-medical and pre-dental students, Chairwoman of academic advisers, Director of the Office of Career Services, and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. In every role, she was an effective leader, a tireless worker, a congenial colleague, and a defender of both liberal education and the absolute right of capable women to step to the front of the line. “There was not a single decision she made that wasn’t in the best interest of the College,” remarks Dr. Joe Dunn, Charles A Dana Professor of History & Politics. “She was incredibly frugal. When cell phones first came out, Joe Ann used her personal cell phone minutes to make calls on behalf of Converse so that the College would save money. She made sure she used every minute every month.”

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The Converse community is profoundly grateful for what she meant to this institution as a colleague, administrator and friend. Joe Ann Lever left her indelible mark on each of us.

Read the eulogy given by Dr. Joe Dunn at Dean Lever’s funeral at converse.edu/node/9019.
LOUISE HUNT CROSLAND '55
Hagood Huckabee Potter '55

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Helen Rachel Lamb Jones '58
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Nancy Hayes Wilkerson '58

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Erin McGee '93
Elisabeth Kinney McNeil '89
Sally Bates McWilliams '74
V. Caroline Dilworth Minicozzi '95
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Fanya Couchell Paouris '68
Carolyn Duer Pennell '50
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Lilith Quinlan '69
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Lucia Manos Morfesis '57

VIRGINIA MANOS
Lucia Manos Morfesis '57

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Kerri Lynn Olson '02

SUE BAXTER PICONE '57
Neltie Sanders Linker '57

DR. FRANK T. PLATT
Janet Johnston Saczawa '79

JANE WINN POLLITZER '53
Lillian Lindsay Sachs '53

DEBBIE POWERS
Elizabeth DeBrule Wilkinson '91

EUNICE SULLIVAN PRACHT '51
Dr. Doris Marley Laird '51
Ann McCaskill Leonard '51
Nell M. Taylor

DELORES SPELL REEVES '81
Adelaide Capers Johnson '69
Mr. and Mrs. George Dean Johnson, Jr.
(Susan Phifer '65)

HARRIET MAYER REID '21
Harriet Reid Anderson '55

LAURICE W. RICH
Erlie Rich Strickland '98

HOLLY JOHNSTON RICHARDSON '78
Phillip E. Richardson, Jr.

MARGUERITE WHITLOCK WELLS ROGERS '33
Laura Wells Huff '02

ELEANOR THOMSON ROY '36
Frederick G. Robbe, Jr.
Bettie Kelly Runyon
Catherine Roy Stone '66

FRANCES SANDERS SCHUMPERT '54
Ann Schumpert Foster '83

CLARA RAVENEL SMITH '38
Clara Smith Carter '64

SARAH MAYO SMITH '83
Wynne E. Smith '83

DR. GEORGE M. SPEED
Barbara Farnsworth Austin
Palmer Davison Ball '84
Sarah Greene Butrum '70
Mr. and Mrs. John P. Fruit
(Mary Ann Alford '63)

Mr. and Mrs. Roger A. F. Habreutinger
Dr. and Mrs. William W. Halligan, Jr.
Dr. James G. Harrison, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hilsman
Dr. and Mrs. Jerry J. Howe
Katherine Halligan James '74
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Walter King
Joe Anne Lever
Dr. and Mrs. Nathaniel F. Magruder
Cynthia Pickard McCredie '67
Betty B. Howard Pitman
Rosie Gressette Reid '71
Jamie M. Roberts
Dr. Alfred O. Schmitz

CHRIS B. STAUBES, JR.
Robbie King Staubes '67

DR. JOHN W. STEVENSON
Kay Scott Vipperman '68

JANE BARRON GRAY STILWELL '85
Terry Grier VanderMyde '64

DR. C. DOWNING TAIT, JR.
Catherine Culler Inabnit '68

SARAH FEARNSIDE TANNER '68
Susan Van Dorsten King '68

MALINDA ANN TRAPHAGAN '87
Rebecca Seeger Eller '87

MARY LIB DAVENPORT VAUGHN '35
Palmer Davison Ball '84
Dr. Elizabeth Vaughn Sharpe '76

ADA JEAN HORNE VICKERS
Ronald L. Vickers '82

LEIGH ANNE WARD '97
Susan M. Miskelly '97

JEAN SACKETT WARREN '48
Sybil Creighton Stewart '48

HELEN R. WATKINS 1897
Lu Lynn Galt Sexton '58

JULIA ROGER WATT '41
Anne Rogers Gregory '65

MARJORIE ANDERSON WEBB '51
Ann McCaskill Leonard '51

RITA LIGHT WELLS '56
Laura Wells Huff '02

PROFESSOR ELIZABETH WILLIAMS
Jane Taylor Patterson '48

MYRA FAUST WYMAN '32
Ellen McLaughlin Rose '56
Converse College continues to serve as a catalyst for positive change on campus with current students and in the greater world through alumnae. This is not surprising given our College’s rich history of enabling women “to see clearly, decide wisely and act justly.” Just browse through our class notes and you will see extraordinary women committed to living creative and collaborative lives through study, leadership, service and travel.

Converse afforded us well-documented advantages—the room to think and grow in an environment where opinions are valued and sought after, strong academic programs in the arts and sciences, an uncommonly low undergraduate student–teacher ratio of 10:1 and many occasions for student-faculty collaboration and research. These benefits have been enjoyed by students for decades and have allowed us to seek opportunities throughout the globe to affect positive change. How wonderful to be a part of such a dynamic and exciting, evolving and influential force in the world!

Collectively, we can act as ONE. Let’s come together to exceed the alumnae challenge. Will your class ONE UP another class in participation? ACT now and go to converse.edu/giveone. Your contribution makes a world of difference.

I look forward to seeing you on campus April 27–28 for Reunion Weekend!

Elisabeth Kinney McNiel ’89
President

Carrie Hill Coleman ’96
Named Director of Alumnae and Donor Relations

Carrie Hill Coleman ’96, newly appointed Director of Alumnae and Donor Relations, was welcomed back to campus with familiar open arms, including three chocolate-chip cookies from Miss Bert in Gee (because she remembered Coleman’s undergraduate cookie habit). “It’s the people that make Converse so special. It’s my greatest honor to have been a part of Converse history, to be a part of Converse today, and to help create a future Converse,” said Coleman.

The Alumnae and Donor Relations team will focus on all aspects of donor relations, including reaching out to non-alums. “It is my hope to strengthen our existing alumnae connections while at the same time attracting new friends to the College,” said Coleman. “I’m determined to make sure everyone feels as though they are a part of the Converse family and the excitement we’re currently experiencing.”

“IT takes a team approach to create an alumnae engagement program,” said Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Bobby Stewart. “Having a team leader like Carrie who is truly collaborative and inspirational to those around her is a huge asset to making sure we serve our alumnae the way they deserve to be served.”

Coleman will be working hard to find ways to get every alumna back on campus. “I want alumnae to see how far we’ve come but also to see that the integrity of our founder’s ideals are still very much alive and well. This should be a place to come home to, no matter how long it’s been. I am passionate about Converse and all that we have done for our women and our community. I want to use that passion to build new opportunities for engaging alumnae and friends near and far.”
Alumnae Slate

President-Elect
Amy Tibbals Morales ’86, Jacksonville, FL

Nominating Committee Chair
Deanna Fults ’00, Knoxville, TN

CARE Chair
(Converse Alumnae Recruitment Effort)
Haidee Clark Stith ’76, Columbia, SC

Secretary
Laura Bingham Ritch ’75, Hartselle, AL

Planned Giving Representative
Austin Faulk Hardison ’95, Charlotte, NC

Converse II Representative
Melissa Parrish Pittman ’00, Spartanburg, SC

Graduate Degree Representative
Shannon Gosnell Bishop ’97, Spartanburg, SC

2010’s Decade Representative
Amanda Ripley ’11, Springfield, VA

2000’s Decade Representatives
Melissa Heatherly Brannen ’03, Lexington, SC
Sarah Marion ’08, Chester, SC

1990’s Decade Representatives
Molly Fortune ’93, Atlanta, GA
Jennifer Covington McElveen, ’94, Mt. Pleasant, SC

1970’s Decade Representatives
Elise Sharp Moore ’76, Pawleys Island, SC
Gail Duffie Stebbins ’76, Augusta, GA
Emily Jones Rushing ’73, Birmingham, AL

1960’s Decade Representatives
Anne “Pokey” Van Every Glenn ’63, Charlotte, NC

1950’s Decade Representatives
Anne Argo Sanders ’59, Spartanburg, SC
Agnes Wallace Williams ’57, Greenville, SC

1940’s Decade Representatives
Eleanor Herbert Hale ’48, Jacksonville, FL

At-Large Members
Helen Mitchell ’86, Spartanburg, SC
Wanda Moore McDowell ’91, Inman, SC

Dr. Jeff Willis has known the Converse campus for 43 years. He taught history for 38 years at Converse; serving for 15 years as chair of the History Department. At the time of his retirement in 2005, he became the Andrew Helmus Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus. Since his retirement from teaching, Willis has served as Director of Archives & Special Collections. “I still work full-time,” he said. “The benefit of retiring from teaching is that I now have Saturdays and Sundays off.”

Surrounded in the archives office by Hazel B. Abbott’s megaphone (with which she directed early Converse theatrical productions), the contents of the 1899 Twichell Time Capsule and 1400 acid-free storage boxes, Dr. Willis looks right at home. Does he know off the top of his head what’s in each box? “Some I do,” he said, as he correctly identified the contents of box 201 with the ease of a parlor magician.

Dr. Willis remembers his first impression of Converse: “I admired the lovely historic buildings and was impressed by the then new Carmichael classroom facilities. Baby-boomers were causing a rapid expansion in higher education. Colleges and universities were packed. Carmichael offered faculty individual offices and that was virtually unheard of at the time.”

Dr. Willis was nominated by Converse alumnae for the Honorary Alumna/Alumnus Award. Chair of the Records and Recognition Committee of the Alumnae Association Board, Pamela Woods ’85, wrote to Dr. Willis when notifying him of the award, “We feel that you, through your many years of association with Converse, exemplify the finest qualities of our alumnae.”

The award will be presented at the Alumnae Leaders and Legends Luncheon on Saturday, April 28, 2012, during Reunion.

“Reunions are my favorite time at Converse,” said Dr. Willis. “Lasting friendships are formed here. I am so happy to be a part of Converse and the environment and education that make it unique.” At Reunion, Dr. Willis will offer a seminar on “Royal Weddings” during Alumnae College. “I’ll start with Victoria and Albert, a royal wedding that went all wrong since they fell madly in love,” said Dr. Willis with his endearing smile. “And, of course, I will speak about Catherine and William and a few other weddings in between.”
Alumnae Award Winners

The Distinguished Alumna Award is given to those alumnae who merit special recognition for their loyalty to Converse, outstanding achievement in their fields, and service to their communities.

Victoria Hunt Cox ’72, Falls Church, VA

The Career Achievement in Music Award recognizes the alumna who has dedicated herself to excellence in her profession in music and notable achievements credited over a continual period of time.

Novie McCree Greene ’62, Orlando, FL

The Mae Elizabeth Kilgo Spirit of Converse Award is given to an alumna who, by her constant and loyal service to Converse College, has kept the College visible to other alumnae and her community.

Sandra Sherard Bethea ’67, Georgetown, SC

The Converse 100 Award, first presented during the College’s Centennial Celebration, is given to a representative alumna who clearly embodies the qualities of character and achievement that Converse alumnae hold as their ideal.

Gail Rawls Jeter ’77, Columbia, SC

The Community Service Award recognizes the alumna who displays the qualities of a vibrant citizen through her active involvement in her community, church, and state.

Marian McGowan Nisbet ’62, Charlotte, NC

The Star Award is given in recognition of an alumna who actively and admirably serves Converse in the area of student recruitment.

Leigh Anne Mitchell Terry ’02, Fountain Inn, SC

The Career Achievement Award recognizes the alumna who has dedicated herself to excellence in her profession and has distinguished herself by notable achievements credited over a continual period of time.

Margaret Hazel Merriss ’82, Decatur, GA

The Young Alumna Award is given to an alumna (within 15 years of graduation) who embodies the qualities of character and achievement that Converse alumnae hold as their ideal.

Kimberly Varnadoe Kent ’97, Greenville, SC
Granddaughter’s Club

Emily Kennell, daughter of Kimberly Durham Kennell ’85
Anna Cathryn Olle, daughter of Lynda Olle ’88
Lydia Dorn, daughter of Jennifer Youles Dorn ’83

Susan Hendley, left, daughter of Janet Cable Hendley ’78
Juliet Edwards, daughter of Amy Dudley Edwards ’88

Missing photos:
Carrie Ann Culbertson, daughter of Carolyn Brooks Culbertson ’96 MEd
Kaelyn Ireland, daughter of Katherine Ostrander Ireland ’86
Katy Pell, daughter of Julie Todd Pell ’87
Hanna Kate Warrington, great-granddaughter of Kate Montgomery Ward ’18
Elizabeth Warrington, great-granddaughter of Kate Montgomery Ward ’18
Melissa Lawter, step-daughter of Tania McDuffie ’89

Submit Your News

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

Class Representatives may submit notes for every issue of the magazine. Class Notes includes information submitted to the Alumnae Office by February 8, 2012.

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

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

30’s

IN MEMORIAM
Harriet Winston Breden Charles Fairfield ’31, August 15, 2011
Margaret Hart Cannon ’31, January 16, 2012
Elizabeth Hoyle Rudisill ’32, July 31, 2011
Jean Hall Wessell ’34, December 30, 2011

Anne Macomson Rivers ’35, October 2, 2011
Miriam Reeves Jones ’35, August 24, 2011
Martha Elizabeth Anderson Goldsmith ’36, November 28, 2011
Ruth Foster Hendley ’37, August 8, 2011
Elizabeth Murrell Smith ’38, August 25, 2011
Rosalie Richardson Poe ’38, September 22, 2011
Doris Godwin Moore ’39, September 17, 2011
Adela Holmes Stoney ’39, February 11, 2012
Elise McKey Whitaker ’39, December 5, 2011

SYMPATHY
Althea Foster Mitchell ’34 on the death of her sister, Ruth Foster Hendley ’37, August 8, 2011
Virginia McMillin McCown ’37 on the death of her sister, Lucile
Sarah Curry Page ’39 on the death of her sister, Dora Curry Burns ’41, September 19, 2011
Alumnae Reunite Daughters with a Mother’s Memory

It was by chance that Jane S. Armstrong met Gelene Duncan Ellsworth ’63. As they began a casual conversation, Gelene mentioned that she was an alumna of Converse. Jane commented that her mother, Blanche Moore Harrison ’40, also attended Converse. Tragically, Blanche died in 1951 when Jane was just 18 months old. Jane has no memory of her mother and no information about her time at Converse. Gelene took an immediate interest in Jane and Blanche’s story. She contacted the Alumnae Office and received lists for the Classes of 1939, 1940, 1941 and 1942. Gelene wrote letters to these 155 alumnae, enclosing a picture of Blanche from the 1940 yearbook, asking if any of them could share information with Jane about her mother’s years at Converse. Letters and phone calls from over twenty classmates resulted, but one was extraordinary. Margaret Elizabeth Burgwyn Cooley ’40 of Tarboro, NC, contacted Jane to say that she was her mother’s Converse roommate! Amazingly, Margaret lived only 20 miles from Jane’s and Blanche’s hometown of Williamston, NC.

Jane tried to describe the emotional day in July 2011 when she and her sister, Elizabeth, met with Margaret. “What a joy it was to meet someone who knew and lived with my mother, to hug and laugh with Margaret, who most assuredly had hugged and laughed with my mother! We formed an extraordinary bond that day. In my heart and soul, I knew Mother was there with us in spirit and was proud of her girls.”

“I owe Gelene such gratitude,” says Jane. “She is a true gem—a fun-loving, caring individual who derives pleasure from helping those around her. I shall be forever grateful to Gelene and to Converse for enabling my sister and me to connect with our mother’s experiences as a member of the Class of 1940.”
The highlight of my report is a joyful conversation with Jo Graham Lewis. Following her husband's death, she sold her house and moved to a retirement home in Marietta, GA. Shortly after her arrival, she met Tom Lewis, who had lost his wife. They had much in common and in January 2011, they were married. Her son, mayor of a nearby town, officiated. They are having a marvelous time; they went to France for a riverboat cruise and to his high school reunion in Tennessee. Congratulations, Jo, from all of us. Retirement homes seem to be the thing for our age group these days. Glen and May Bynum Sharp have moved into Covenant Place in Sumter, SC, a retirement home that Glen was instrumental in bringing to Sumter. Bill and Robin Robins Watson have moved from Oxford, NC to a retirement home in Raleigh to be near their daughter Jane.

**CLASS OF 1949**

Kitty Peeler Carson 401 Springdale Drive Union, SC 29379-1835, 864.427.3353 ladyk@bellsouth.net

Marianne Ellison Bartram attended the January meeting of the Alumnae Board. She remains at Summit Hills in Spartanburg and is happy about a grandchild transferring to Converse for spring semester. Libby Harper Hopkins has her traveling boots securely on! She has just returned from a 10-day California trip after a 16-day South American Cruise from Santiago, Chile to Rio. March 2012 will find her setting sail for San Diego on a 14-day Panama Canal Cruise after which she plans to visit her son in California. Her grandson has recently been accepted at Vanderbilt. In 2009, Jane Long Douglas of Athens, Georgia, received the Junior League of Athens’ Community Service Award for Lifetime Achievement. In 2011, she was presented the J W. Fanning Humanitarian of the Year Award that celebrated her volunteer work with Recording for the Blind, the Athens Symphony, the Athens Regional Medical Center Auxiliary, the Athens Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Athens Community Council on Aging. Yet, there is still room for her bowling league, golf, and her great grandson Miles! My personal news refers to three back issues that have stymied some of my activities of recent weeks. I was able to enjoy a seven-day Christmas cruise with a son and family and am just back from a bridge buddy beach stay. I am headed to a doctor to see what can be done about my back issues. This problem just denied me attendance at the January meeting of the Alumnae Board, which I missed terribly.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Kay Horton Taylor ’50, May 20, 2011
Marjorie Nan Anderson Webb ’51, October 13, 2011
Nancy Widenhause Barrow ’54, September 13, 2011
Mary Taylor ’57, March 1, 2011
Eleanor Brown Jocerd ’58, August 29, 2011
Emilie Foster Haskin ’58, September 24, 2011

**SYMPATHY**

Beverley Lang MacBain ’50 on the death of her husband, George MacBain III, November 13, 2011
Frances Boykin Maynard ’56 on the death of her husband, James Leslie Maynard, Jr., January 15, 2012
Christine Williams Hammond ’56 on the death of her son, Bradley W. Hammond, August 9, 2011
Lucia Manos Morfesis ’57 on the death of her husband, Peter George Morfess, November 27, 2011
Ann Ward Houch ’58 on the death of her sister, Juliet Ward Bice, December 10, 2011
Donna Garland Mize ’59 on the death of her son, Richard Smith Mize, September 27, 2011

All Golden Club members are welcome to reunion each year following their 50th reunion.

**CLASS OF 1952**

60th Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

Suzanne Earnhardt Smith 370 Montgomery Drive Spartanburg, SC 29302-3447, 864.582.2415 sesmas@charter.net

Join your classmates for your 60th reunion on the Converse campus on April 27-28, 2012. Go to converse.edu/alumnae/events/reunion for details of the Reunion 2012 weekend.

**CLASS OF 1953**

Marilyn Maker Sherrell 114 Briarwood Court Spartanburg, SC 29302-2125, 864.583.8066

**CLASS OF 1954**

Next Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

Betsy Shepherd Ancrum 35 Honeysuckle Woods Lake Wylie, SC 29710-7067, 803.831.0205 bancrum@comporium.net

Margaret Jackson Bundy 518 Briarwood Road Lancaster, SC 29720-1802, 803.285.6002 mjbundy@comporium.net

Ann Douglass Gibson Nichols 205 Birchwood Drive Spartanburg, SC 29379-1803, 864.427.3647

Marjorie Williams Fiorilla and husband John—both train fanatics—had a marvelous trip aboard the Orient Express last summer, and loved every luxurious minute of it (who wouldn’t?). For summer 2012, they hope to put together a train trip in South Africa and environs. Mary Joe Erwin Worth and Tom, who seem never to age, enjoy visiting their children and grandchildren whenever possible. Beth’s girls are 22, 20 and 15 now, and Molly’s boys are eight and 12. MJ and Tom couldn’t stay dogless for long, and got a new Yorkie puppy last fall. That will either keep them young or age them fast. My own trips (Bet Ancrum) are less exotic. This winter I am making the 32-mile round trip to Rock Hill, SC and back daily, to visit poor Tunk in a rehab facility where he is recovering from a broken hip. What a bumper of a Christmas we had, but spring should find him happily home again. By the way, please note my new email address at top of this column, and send news there from now on.

**CLASS OF 1955**

Jo Ann Guyton Davison 1722 Peggio Lane, Unit 11 Missoula, MT 59802-3627, 406.829.6376

Jane Marie Hancock Jennings says that she does not have any exciting news to share about the Class of 1955. She does have good news about her husband, Jacob, who suffered a stroke before Christmas. Although he has a problem with balance, his mind is fine. They celebrated Christmas at a rehab hospital in Columbia, SC. Jacob is gradually returning to his law practice. Jane Marie mentioned that she had talked recently to Nan Brown Duke, Sara Bull Perrow and Jane Davis Griffin. Jane was back from a trip to Turkey. You will be distressed to learn that Dorothy Hunter Ellis’ house burned down. Happily, Dot escaped harm. By the time you receive these class notes, we hope her life will be back to normal. Nancie Wright Biggs has remarried and moved from Columbia, SC to Charleston, SC. Best wishes, Nancie! That’s about all the news I have. When I took this job, I said I would have a report about the Class of 1953 in every issue of the magazine. I cannot keep my promise unless you let me know what’s happening in your life. Please let me hear from you.

**CLASS OF 1956**

Ann Hudgens Karegeannes 137 Mabry Drive Spartanburg, SC 29307-2613, 864.579.3801 karja56@aol.com

Peggie Price Walter 616 Wotan Road Columbia, SC 29229-3350, 803.419.0986 walter@umcsc.org

(Continued)
50’s (Continued)

Your class reps offer our greetings in this year 2012. We wish you well and hope you all are well. We had minimal communication with you across the 2011 holidays, but it was not for lack of trying. Tolly Gilmer Shelton and her extended family visited often with each other, and Tolly and husband, Barrett, went to Australia for fun and Scotland for a family wedding and some touring. She sent a picture of her handsome family at a Florida beach. Ann had a visit with Carolen Belcher Hansard and husband Bill at the Thousand Thanks gala on the campus in October 2011. We celebrated with a lovely dinner and great entertainment from some of our fine Converse musicians. What a treasure we have in the Petrie School of Music! Mary Oeland Alexander has moved to Florence, SC, and can be found at 3113 Combray Circle, 29501. Peggie and Ann thank those in attendance at our spring 2011 reunion for your kind words about the events we arranged outside of the campus schedule. It was our pleasure and we had a good time.

CLASS OF 1957
55th Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

Marguerite Gignilliat Old
314 Jackson Avenue
Lexington, VA 24450-2010, 540.463.5436


CLASS OF 1958

Elaine Finklea Folline
740 Kilbourne Road
Columbia, SC 29205-2048, 803.254.9503

Nancy Hayes Wilkerson
2122 Norton Road
Charlotte, NC 28207-2138, 704.376.4776
nwilkerson@bellsouth.net

Betty Anne Nelson Richardson’s granddaughter, Margaret Deans Fawcett, is close friends with Muff Hilderbrand Morton’s granddaughter, Mary Catherine Dulfos. The girls are cheerleaders for Wofford College and just returned from New Zealand! Over Christmas, Shinger Hasell LaBorde heard from Betsy Richardson Cathcart. The Cathcarts have moved to Greenwood, SC, where two of their children have families and the son is an orthopedist, which is very convenient for people our age! Gretchen Eskew Hendrix took all her children and grandchildren to Lake Superior to ski in February. Her daughter lives nearby and when the families went last year, they all learned to ski! Thanks to Daisy for helping with class notes. Daisy Barron Leland enjoys the Ashley Hall Christmas play, even after seeing it over 30 times, but especially when her granddaughters are in it. Granddaughter Erin was one of the jokers, having fun doing cartwheels down the aisle and standing on her head to entertain the kings, while granddaughter Elizabeth sang in the seventh grade choir. Daisy was not the only proud grandmother in the audience. Barbara Johnson Baker’s granddaughter Annie was one of the “big angels,” while Susan Massengill Mood’s granddaughter Cameron sang in the Red Choir. Alice Howard McClure’s son Sam took her to see Clemson in the Orange Bowl. Unfortunately, they didn’t enjoy the game as much as they did being together. Nancy Hayes Wilkerson wrote that both her brother and his wife had died during the summer. Daisy called Nancy to express her sympathy and had a nice telephone visit in spite of the reason for the phone call. Daisy said that one of her blessings of the Christmas season was seeing Mary Jane Pearce Holland ’59 walk into the Christmas Eve service at First Presbyterian Church in Florence, SC with members of her family. Daisy had not seen Mary Jane since her stroke in March 2011. Mary Jane looked so wonderful that it brought tears of joy to Daisy’s eyes.

CLASS OF 1959

Harriet “Sister” Marshall Goode
131 East Main Street
Rock Hill, SC 29730-4539, 803.327.4746
goodeharrietm@comporium.net

Mary Jane Pearce Holland
814 Greenway Drive
Florence, SC 29501-5568, 843.665.2003
mhf@sc.rr.com

Rosann Ferguson Hooks will have returned from a trip to China by the time we read the class notes, but before she left, she sent me a note encouraging all of us to contribute to Converse. First class education for women, Rosann noted, is essential in this day and time and in order to attract students the physical plant needs to be first class. The senior apartments are a major step in the right direction, and Pell and other areas are now under renovation. Rosann has pledged to help and she implores the rest of us to do the same! A lot of our classmates and spouses have endured some serious health issues in the last year, and this includes my co-reporter, Mary Jane Pearce Holland, but I believe most are on the mend now. Sister
introduced Virginia Dyson Hooper to Virginia’s husband, Sam, who was a pilot in the Air Force with Barry; they had a reunion in Virginia in 2010. Max and I attended a 75th birthday celebration for Jackie Hacker Hollis’ husband, Richard, who graduated from Wofford in 1938; both are doing well and Jackie continues to enjoy her painting. Max and I both work and enjoy volunteering at the Charles Lea Foundation and Bethlehem Center.

**CLASS OF 1961**

Next Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

Elizabeth Blythe Frazer
324 Nottingham Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27517-6575, 919.402.0409
elbfrazer@earthlink.net

Marietta Williams Gordon
310 Lauren Street
Columbia, SC 29020-3630, 803.425.4118
gogogrammy310@gmail.com

Frances Taylor Meissner
Post Office Box 274
Seaford, VA 23696-0274, 757.898.4277
franmeissner@verizon.net

Penny South Koszolonyik Ham and Joe will celebrate their first wedding anniversary in March. They’ve taken cruises to Costa Rica, the Baltic States and across the Atlantic to visit the UK, Iceland, Greenland and NS. They’ve toured Oman and, this summer, will spend a month in South America and take a cruise of Alaska. Penny continues teaching and volunteering with Habitat for Humanity and Former Fulbright Scholars. They both volunteer at the George H.W. Bush Museum and the AARP TaxAid program. They enjoy playing music for two pianos and attending operas and concerts. Peggy Wilson Schneider has a new grandson, Thomas Henry Jablonski, born August 24, 2011, the son of her youngest daughter Anne. Congratulations to Susanne Cameron Hurley on her new book *From the Highlands to High Finance: The Carolina McColls*. The book came out in December and is available at Amazon. Last August, Betsy Blythe Frazer, Betty Lake Orr and Sylvia Harley Arant spent an enjoyable weekend in the North Carolina mountains catching up on 50 years of news. Frances’ daughter, Leslin, in November.

**CLASS OF 1962**

50th Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

Dixie Crum Stone
9419 Owl Trace Drive
Chesterfield, VA 23838-8919, 804.748.4755
dixiestone@comcast.net

Ruth Hemingway Mitman and her husband have been married for almost 50 years. He is The Reverend Canon John Mitman, an Episcopal Priest. Ruth and John have a son, who is married, and he has two children. They live in the western mountains of Maine. They also have a daughter, whose children who are in Cincinnati. The Mitman family has lived all over the world including New Hampshire, Michigan, Iowa, England and Hong Kong. Bibs Sheorn Hurt and her husband Henley live in Columbia, SC. He has retired from his practice in Internal Medicine. Bibs enjoys playing duplicate bridge and spending time with their daughters, Leddy and Betsy. Leddy and her family live in Columbia, SC, while Betsy and her family live in Nashville, TN. Bibs and Henley enjoy traveling with Jean Hamrick Haas and Bob and with Dr. Larry Ligo. Dr. Ligo is the art history professor at Davidson College.

**CLASS OF 1963**

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2013

Lou Hoffler Bright
1103 Sourwood Circle
Chapel Hill, NC 27517-4913, 919.968.1455

Betty Moore Henderson
13302 Tusca Lane
Houston, TX 77079-7113, 713.465.0940
elizahenderson@att.net

Emily Kerr Stay
9619 Pekin Road
Novelty, OH 44072-9743, 440.338.8221
estay@windstream.net

It is heartwarming to hear from you girls! Happy news or sad news, share it with us. Hattie Liddon Anderson, Henrietta McNeal Smith, Gibby Scott Walters, Barbara Browne Langhorne, Elaine Smith Hrazdil and Anne Water Green sent Christmas greetings. Gibbie and husband John have moved back to north Georgia after a spell in Alabama. Peggy Rainwater finished her chemo and headed to Rome with husband Leo last fall. Hooray! Betty Reynolds Oare’s plans include a March trip to Houston, TX, to judge the Pin Oak Horse Show. Betty and husband Ernie spend much of the winter in Florida with their horses. Emily Kerr Stay reports enjoying lunch with Carolyn Morrow Wynn and Wallace Johnson during a trip to North Carolina and South Carolina. We will continue to send you email updates as we receive word from classmates, so please communicate with Betty Moore Henderson and Emily to share your news so that we can support and keep in touch with each other. Remember to put April 2013 on your calendar for our big 50th. It will be a grand time to renew old friendships and develop new ones with classmates you might have barely known when we were in college. Big changes on campus, too!

**CLASS OF 1964**

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2014

Elizabeth Harkins Biosca
807 S Mountain View Circle
Johnson City, TN 37601-3462, 423.926.9897
ebbiosca@hotmail.com

Sarah Miller McDaniel
1140 Pilot Boy Road
Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487-6993, 843.559.7267
sarahmcdanielw@bellsouth.net

Margaret Edmunds, youngest daughter of B Kennedy Durham and Hayward Edmunds is engaged to Vann Evans of Raleigh, NC. They met at Presbyterian College, went their separate ways and 10 years later are tying the knot. They will marry in May at
France. They enjoyed the history, wineries and friendly people. The fall weather was great and tourist crowds had thinned even at popular tourist sites. Dianne and Ray spent Christmas in snowy Denver with the “McLees Clan West” — their daughter, two sons, a granddaughter and their families. Donna Perry Vandiver enjoys playing violin and singing with her church choir. Donna has recovered from knee surgery with the help of a “Physical Terrorist” and much effort on her part. Her daughter Perry Vandiver Henson ’98 Eds is a college counselor at Wolford College. Chippie Everhart Graham and husband Bill enjoyed an after Christmas Disney Cruise with their daughter and granddaughter. They wanted to go while the granddaughter would still be awed by the fantasy. Kathryn Ingram Lyon and husband Rick traveled to south Florida after Christmas. A boat with the flu kept them from meeting Linda Whitnel Crimm and Mildred Gee Akers in Jacksonville, FL and from visiting their new granddaughter Ann Carter Lyon in Memphis, TN. Kathryn and Rick have six grandchildren. Ann Sienknecht Humbracht visited Kitty Oldham Young in Greenville, SC. Donna Vandiver met them for lunch. They have been having these annual visits for years.

CLASS OF 1967

Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2014

Carol Early Graham
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Caroline Gordon Grimball
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eduardo.l.828@bellsouth.net

Barbara Baker Kennedy
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Charleston, SC 29407-3501, 843.996.4599
bbkennedy@necr.com

Ann Wallace Nichols
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Charleston, SC 29407-3501, 843.996.4599
pncmcgill@charter.com

Mary Calton now has 12 grandchildren and spends a lot of time with her eldest daughter, Maria Elena and her daughter, Sophia, in Miami, FL. Scottie has four, Miguel has five, John has one and Clyde has one. That’s a houseful! Mary Everett Pierce and husband Charles have been making buying trips to England and France in search of antiques for their occasional showings at home and now their own booth at the Riverside Mall called “Millstone Antiques,” named after her family farm. Charles loves running most of the operation, a welcome distraction from his busy pediatric practice. Barbara Baker Kennedy had a wonderful Converse connection this fall at the Grand National Waterfowl Hunt in Cambridge, MD. She ran into Betsy Stowe Ruff ’69 and Marion Allen Stowe ’67. They are both good friends of Emily Monk Davidson and Mary Everett Pierce. To take it one-step further, Amanda Coffey Demarest’s son married Becky Ruff’s daughter. That’s a trip around the block! Blair Blackwell Cooper is retiring this year! About a year ago, Carol Early Graham and Joan Hemphill visited their former Converse music history professor and illustrious cellist Luca DiCecco and his wife Arlene in Palm Desert for an elegant luncheon.

CLASS OF 1968

Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2013

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CLASS OF 1969

Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2014

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awngle@hotmail.com

Sydney Patricia Smith
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csmithstepsahead@aol.com

Elmira Banks McLaughlin. “Pookie” and husband Woody traveled this past year visiting family across the US and visited Lee Ann Lowry in Waynesville, NC with other Converse buddies and had a fabulous time! Patti Hodge Croft retired from teaching and enjoys her son and family living next door in Sumter, SC. Anita Parker Zeigler and husband, Charlie, live in Charlotte, NC, where three of her four children also live. She volunteers as Area Director of Greater NC Community Bible Study, which she recommends to all! Sally Evans Lockwood sends news that son Jay has begun medical school at Emory while son Chip is at Harvard pursuing a doctoral degree in religion. Carole Johnston Cummings had 12 days of Christmas with family visiting lots of food and fun! Elizabeth “BooBoo” Lide lives in Atlanta, GA, with husband Paul and 16-year-old daughter, Emma. She teaches art at Paideia School and Paul works for CNN. Julia Bowman Martin has retired as speech language pathologist. She was diagnosed with viral encephalitis in February 2010 and was critically ill causing her to lose some of her long-term memories. She hopes to be at the next reunion. We are looking forward to seeing you, Julie! Becky Stowe Ruff’s daughter, Stowe and family are moving to Augusta, GA where Florida Clarkson Dickert lives.
70's

IN MEMORIAM
Wilma Baker Brown ’70 MEd, September 17, 2011
Ginny Legare ’70, October 10, 2011
Pattie Tuggle Miller ’70 MEd, September 12, 2011
Martha Boone McGarry ’74, May 30, 2011
Camilla H. Deyton ’74, February 9, 2011

SYMPATHY
Janice “Smack” Mack ’70 on the death of her mother, Lorraine L. Mack, November 26, 2011
Betty Arthur Hardaway ’71 on the death of her mother, Daphne Woodham Arthur, January 20, 2012
Leila Cottingham Thorne ’71 on the death of her brother, Charles Daniel Cottingham IV, December 18, 2011
Lucy Haslett Evans ’71 on the death of her mother, Frances Davis Haslet ’41, February 3, 2012
Sarah Levi Freeman ’71 on the death of her husband, Charles Pace Freeman, Jr., July 31, 2012
Page Parsons ’71 on the death of her father, Harrison Morgan Parsons, May 11, 2010
Pamela Scurry ’71 on the death of her mother, Harriet Porter Johnson, December 8, 2011
Mary Berry Johnston ’72 on the death of her mother, Nancy Womble Berry, September 13, 2011
Amanda Dargan Zeitlin ’72 on the death of her mother, Frances Edwards Dargan, December 15, 2011
Nancy Atkinson Patch ’73 on the death of her mother, Lucile McMillin Atkinson ’46, December 21, 2011
Lynn Holder Looper ’73 on the death of her son, Samuel Frederick Looper, October 13, 2011
Sarah Dargan Cornejo ’75 on the death of her mother, Frances Edwards Dargan, December 15, 2011
Renie Hollis Adair ’75 on the death of her father, Thomas Francis Hollis, January 13, 2012
Deborah Bradley Trusty ’77 on the death of her mother, Anna Louise Bradley, August 4, 2011
Betsy Brewer Grimes ’77 on the death of her son, Patrick Hawley Grimes, December 20, 2011
Anne Prentice Graham ’77 on the death of her mother, Isabel Orr Graham, June 18, 2011
Martha Haslett Ladd ’78 on the death of her mother, Frances Davis Haslet ’41, February 3, 2012
Jean Arthur Hungerpiller ’79 on the death of her mother, Daphne Woodham Arthur, January 20, 2012
Helen Farmer ’79 on the death of her brother, Frank Hunter Farmer, Jr., February 4, 2012
Meg Plaster Stovall ’79 on the death of her mother, Helen Scaugh Plaster, August 2, 2011

CAREER CHANGES
Stacy Sumner Jesso ’78, Director of Development and Marketing, Council for Children’s Rights, Charlotte, NC

ADVANCED DEGREE
Carol Owens Campbell ’72, MFA, Pine Manor College, July 2011

CLASS OF 1970
Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2015
Janice “Smack” Mack
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Lynn Hicks Mitchell
1004 Mulberry Road
Martinsville, VA 24112-5218, 276.632.4232
ethmitch@gmail.com

Written by Smack in January from Christmas cards or fall-winter get-togethers. Jan Rorebech Drees enjoyed trips in 2011 to North Carolina mountains, fishing in Alabama, and had a mini-reunion with classmates at Gulf Shores. Patty Downes Johnson sees Bunny Hicklin Johnson often. On an annual Pawley’s Island summer trip, she saw Ann Owens and Susan Shaw Hufham. All are well. Perry Hicks Jordan likes the warm weather in Texas. Marion Brooke Philpott married Charlie—congratulations! Eileen Nolen Rampey spent Christmas at Disney World. Barbara Holman Stith’s son Boyd is in Ghana working on water purification. Susan Dukes Webber’s husband, Johnny, had heart surgery and she is busy with three grandchildren under the age of five. Thayer Cheatham Willis wrote an excellent article in her newsletter on motivating children. I had dinner with Nancy Jane Stedman Calloway, Ann Joyner Cross and Lynda “Smitty” Smith Swann. Nancy Jane had an insightful conversation on mind-body health. Ann is working part-time for her husband. Smitty is a busy CEO and relaxes on weekends in Blowing Rock, NC. I also had lunch with Howard Brown Millican and Lynnie Hicks Mitchell. Howard’s son graduated from Davidson. Lynnie is involved in church work and visits her daughters in Minneapolis and Raleigh. Smack spends long hours at school teaching. Take care and send news!

CLASS OF 1971
Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2016
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Jane Byrd Melton
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Clemmons, NC 27012-9053, 336.778.1760
janelmelton@triad.rr.com
Mindy Thompson Orman
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Nashville, TN 37220-1043, 615.373.5965
orman@realtracs.com

CLASS OF 1972
40th Reunion – April 27-28, 2012
Jill Rushforth Coker
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Greensville, SC 29067-3775, 864.281.0314

Florence Twitty
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Spartanburg, SC 29302-3762, 864.585.3018

Pamela Seignious Chambers left Marriott International in October of 2010 after 32 years and began her own home care company in the Charleston area. Sarah Brown Stewart has been appointed to serve as a federal Administrative Law Judge and assigned to Jackson, MS. Sarah’s husband, Bill, has retired from his teaching career at USC in Columbia, SC. Looking for gardening tips? Be sure to go to www.goupstate.com and read articles written by Betty James Montgomery. Hope everyone saw Betsy Crane Griffith’s video to Converse alumnae in January. We hope to see everyone in the Class of 1972 at our 40th Reunion April 27–28.

CLASS OF 1973
Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2013
Peggy Kelly Lancaster
310 Connecticut Avenue
Spartanburg, SC 29302-2127, 864.582.0587

CLASS OF 1974
Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2014
Amanda Horton Dorman
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ahdorman@comcast.net
Elizabeth Elmore Rhoad
308 Laurel Drive
Lexington, SC 29072-3542, 803.957.5809
zqueen123@aol.com

Sara Emma Hall has a design and decorating business out of her home in Meridian, MS, and loves to travel. English Johnson Folson and commercial real estate husband, Johnny, enjoy having their daughter, son and three grandchildren live nearby in Columbia, SC. Frances Smith McLean and husband, Dave, live in St. Simons, GA, where she has a darling dress shop called Beechers. Peggy McKewen Kyzer enjoys visiting her daughter’s family in Lakeland, FL, where she can be a part of her two grandchildren’s lives. She is looking forward to a visit from her son who is a landscape artist and art professor at Utah State University. Her sister, Debbi McKewen Ferguson, lives in High Point, NC, and has a home business, The Paper Lady. Her two sons are married and live in Hilton Head, SC, and Atlanta, GA. Ellen Forde Grigsby lives in Dallas, TX, and works in development for Open Doors, a non-profit serving persecuted Christians in 60 nations. Her son, Russell, is a pastor in Minneapolis, MN, and her daughter, Mary Hayes, is a ballet instructor in Seattle, WA. Ellen and Martha Tonnisen Mayberry recently visited each other. Martha and husband, Richard, live on Lake Norman, commuting to their jobs in Charlotte, NC. Martha has been with the Mint Museum for 33 years. They plan to retire next year to their mountain home near Brevard, NC.

(Continued)
We are in the “grandbabies phase” of life! Missy Craver Schenck welcomed grandson “Phen,” short for Stephen, and Betsy McPhail Weathersbee welcomed grandson, Sutton in July 2011. In September, Joy Joyner Poe became a grandmother to “Tripp!” Kitty Gary Hotchkiss and Charlie had four weddings in four years and two grandchildren, Ella and Izzy! Martha Mason Gibson and Margaret Allen Tyson ’76 joined Kitty for a wedding in Charleston, SC. “AB” Pearce Stewart and Tim celebrated their 25th anniversary by traveling to New Zealand, Australia and Fuji! Mary Alice Timberlake King is a school psychologist with the challenge of 1200 middle school students. Patty Richardson Ennis works at an art gallery. South Windermere Center, in Charleston, SC. In Cashiers this fall, I literally ran into Betsy Wigington and Becky Meadows! Sarah Dargan Cornejo’s daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, will be attending Davidson in the fall. Sarah saw Harriett Swink Pharr and Frances Green Swink at the “annual winter games” in Ellingham. Missy Moser Ranlin spends time when she can with Betsy Weatherbee. Joy Poe, Louise Malloy Bonner and Lillian Montgomery Lawrence. Ruthie McCutchen Knight and Bud had a wonderful trip to Merida, Mexico, and visited their daughter, Taylor, who was spending a semester there; they felt they had a wonderful Spanish speaking tour guide!

CLASS OF 1976

Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2016

Lisa Williamson Anderson
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LawHun12@aol.com

Rebecca Poston Bomar, Ann Preston Carey, Betty Barrett Robertson Rogers, Marlene Parthlow Willings, Val Powell Crawford, Margaret Rinehart Smith, Caleb Fort, Nancy Boatwright Holt, Val Nielsen Sherer, Julia Keenan Willcox

Elizabeth Gordon Martin
4528 Ivy Hall Road
Columbia, SC 29206-1229, 803.960.9138
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Claire Connors Wharton
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Hello to the Class of 1976! Here it is 2012, most of our children have left the nest, some of us are grandparents, some continue to work and some are retired. It is time for us to get in touch. We want to know what you are doing, and we want to find those of you we have lost like Jane Simpson Weltner and Doreen Pepper. Surely, there are other lost classmates you have thought of over the years. It is a small world after all. One of our Converses Alumnae Board representatives, Haidee Clark Smith, has a lake house just above where Claire lives in Tryon, NC. We run into Converses graduates of all ages all the time. I keep up with Catherine Rhea-Darby (who retired from the protective services court rounds) because our siblings are married. Send news of yourself as well as of those who you have seen or heard from or heard about. It is fun to make new kinds of connections. Contact any of your three class reps.

CLASS OF 1977

35th Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

Donna Kaiser Croft
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dkcroft@gmail.com

Lucille Hudson Stembridge
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Forest Park, GA 30297-4080, 404.361.7304
sopranolucy@att.net

We are looking forward to gathering at our 35th Reunion the last weekend of April! Joy Nanney Finch directed and played keyboards with the band in the Spartanburg Little Theater production of Honky Tonk Angels. Jane Boatwright Schwab, Harriet Wilson Newton, Susan Hull, and Jean Parks Bush had a great visit in Atlanta, GA; then Jane, Harriet and Jean went to Newman, GA, where they gathered for cocktails and had a ball. Josie Rudolph Stokes is fortunate to see her grandchildren Tess and Jack often, as they live close by. Lucy Hudson Stembridge has sung soprano next to Carol Rawlinson ’68 and performed in a Broadway review accompanied by Kathy Ireland ’86. Rhonda Huff Valdes and Charles have moved full-time to Kiawah Island as empty nesters. Susan Saye Honaker’s oldest son, Douglas, married on December 3 in Las Vegas. Rhonda Logan Wills flew out for the occasion. Following the wedding and the SEC football Championship the same day, they partied up and down the strip! Susan and husband, Tom, are moving from Pennsylvania to middle Georgia. Susan is happy to be moving south again.

CLASS OF 1978

Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2013

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lhutson@sc.rr.com

Blanche Gramling Weathers
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blanchee@oburg.net

Martha Haslett Ladd is retired but still working. She has four grandchildren. Deidre Perot Lightsey and Frank are in Polk County riding horses with the Sheriff’s Mounted Patrol and have Neverest Farm in Rutherford, NC, with everything from horses to beehives. Laura Dew Smith’s family has become our class celebs as their business, Blue Ridge Log Cabins, was featured on Extreme Home Makeover: Home Edition last September. Michelle Obama was there with Laura dancing on the front porch of the house to the sounds of “Brick House,” even though it was made of logs. Seriously, this home was built for female homeless vets to live in while they are trying to rebuild their lives. Good job, Laura, Chip and Michelle! Both of Willie and Libby Pennell Lowndes children got married this past year. Martha Anderson was ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church! You go Sista! Rilla Thomas is active in Conway, SC, in her sustaining role as “caregiver” for someone in her sphere. Annie Horne Collins is in Roswell, GA, and is so excited to have a 2 1/2 year old granddaughter, Annie! Julie Gaw Armstrong and her youngest daughter have been to Burma and Thailand; they worked with a group of Christians trying to protect abandoned women and orphaned children.

CLASS OF 1979

Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend, 2014

Margaret Horne Darr
234 Beechwood Drive
Spartanburg, SC 29307-2949, 864.583.7464
buddymoonshine@charter.net

Send Margaret your good news for the next issue!
just turned 24 and lives with Carol while working on her business major. Carol has just changed jobs at the request of a former boss and since October works for Scientific Games. Way to go Carol! Please check out our group page on Facebook! —Margaret Craig Schafer

CLASS OF 1981

Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2016

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What the Pell? Vote our classmates off Devil Island! They shamefully missed our 30th Allyson Culbreth Ware is involved with weekend work – Children’s Music Ministry. Amy Moss Jones’ son and daughter were getting married. Edith Hopkins Collins was a judge for the Charleston Race Weekend. Kathy Young McDowell had family trips from New Orleans to Charlotte. Gay Parks Dlz went to soris baseball game. Glenn Sumrell said something about California and the long trip. Cindy Patrick Brust is the Communications Director of Anglican Missions in the Americas. Lisa Johnson Bentley and Danny moved from St. Louis to 6407 Province Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70808. Drop Lisa a line as she plans a daughter’s wedding. Ann Moorman Price and husband Bill treated Martanna to a delicious lunch in Columbia, SC. Lisa, give her a call — she’s “in” event planning! Carol Upchurch Campbell sent a package last week to get her name in print. Her husband, Sam, sent all those Moon Pies for our 30th reunion! Jane Rinehart Crosby and Jimmy climbed Mt. Leconte! What about Sally Jeter Hammond biking through Africa! Devil Doer to the 10th power… you go girl! Ruthie Jones Soliday is a drug representative in Charleston. Facebook us: Converse Class of ’81 (Right, Sally Herlong?)

CLASS OF 1982

30th Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

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Anne James Meadors wrote that daughter, Weatherly (24), graduated from Wofford and is back in Charleston, SC studying Marine Biology through the College of Charleston. James, Jr. (22) will graduate from Wofford in May with a degree in business economics. Jack (18) is a freshman at Wofford enjoying being an SAE and participating in intramural sports. Anne stays busy tutoring, volunteering, playing tennis and doing payroll for her husband’s construction company. Caroline Wyman Edwards still teaches middle school chorus in Darlington, SC. Her daughter, Hannah, got married in November. Caroline said she loved being the mother of the bride! Her son Hank is majoring in marketing. Debra Baldi Matz got a chuckle out of all her classmates with college age children. She is staying active with her 11-year-old son, Jarod. Evie Davis Bunge’s daughter, Hannah, is working and taking classes in Columbia, SC while Rick is a freshman at Clemson in the Engineering program. Evie’s parents relocated from their home of 40 years in Florence, SC, to Columbia, SC, where they now live near their children. Looking so forward to seeing you at our 30th reunion!

CLASS OF 1983

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2013

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It has been a very slow news collection time! Other than hearing that Elizabeth McDonald Dunn’s family was not hurt in the severe weather that swept through Birmingham, AL, I have not heard from any of our ’83 Red Devil sisters. PLEASE send me information…it is so nice to hear about what everyone is doing! Our daughter Lindsay Kate is in her second year at Georgia College and State University. She has decided to study Special Education. Tori is 16, and a junior in high school. She spends most of her time at the dance studio. I am in my 11th year working at Covenant Christian School, currently as the Director of Admissions and Instruction. Okay ladies, I do not want to have to write another article about me, so please send in your news! —Barbara
in Florence, Italy. Margaret McElroy Goatley and husband Greg are empty nesters with daughters in three different colleges, Centre College in Danville, KY, Westminster College in Fulton, MO, and Western KY University. Renee Rankin Jones had lots of fun seeing Carolyn Malone Buchanan over Thanksgiving. Hollywood has been saying that ’40 is the new 30’... well, Carolyn makes 50 look like the new 35!

Gayle Schrier Smith MD practices finished a three-year re-design and received an award from The Children’s National Medical Center for Innovation in Design of the Medical Home! Kim White O’Quinn, Director of Marketing for The Mungo Companies in Columbia, SC, recently celebrated her oldest son’s wedding, and on-hand to keep her sane was Mary Milling Alexander, Kate Hinton, Lou Springs Smith and Laura Campbell Brown. Love, Jody, Kevin and Lynn.

CLASS OF 1985

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2015

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LeAnne Rowland O’Donnell
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Kelley Maloney Liggitt sent me the Columbia gal’s news. Vandy, Kelly, Kelley, Marsha, Suzanne, Gigi, Julia, Deans, Beckey, Karen, Blair, Amy, Ellen, and Paula had their annual beach trip in February and are planning their 50th birthday bash for next year. Kelley’s daughter, Kate, turned 11 in March and again was the top fundraiser in the Downs Syndrome Buddy Walk. Son, Kent is a high school freshman and ready to get his driver’s license! Thanks for the Christmas cards with your beautiful families. Jeanne O’Neill Robinson sent a creative picture of her family with an Elvis impersonator, Annie Gray Roberts and Mark pictured with cat, Grace, Melissa Cureton Pricketts family at one of Austin’s football games, Teresa Shuman Clements with hubs and three grown girls, Suzanne Crosswell Short’s three gorgeous girls, Sandra Morris Welch, Jody and college senior, Elise; Cindy Bruce Bryant and David with their three children; Ellen Lanford Asherman always sends a great beach picture of her three young men (it is fun to see how tall they are); Marie Elam Souther’s cute girls; Mike and Happy Smith Mason with their three boys; Rachel Cauthen Rohrer with Kathryn & Philip, and Tammy Gossett Graves’ son, Daniel and graduating senior, Becca.

CLASS OF 1986

Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2016

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Julie Stagg
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Anne Moore’s boys, Scott (22) and Will (18) have both joined the Marine Corps this year. Will is training in Pensacola and Scott in North Carolina. Middle son, Robert, is at Arkansas State University playing rugby, so Amy (13) is the only one at home now. Julie Stagg started her doctorate degree at UGA in Higher Education Management. Ann Lanier Jackson and her husband Brian are raising their three boys, ages 9, 8 and 5. Kristy Gillmann’s company changed its name to LegalShield, so with a new ad campaign, she is busier than ever. Angie Stanland and Cy now live in Kansas City permanently. She is the Vice President of Associate Services, a Recruiting for Cerner Corporation, a global healthcare IT company. Cheryl Barber has two daughters at Wofford and one that already graduated. She directs a college program at Rabun Gap boarding school. Libby Ann Babinet hired Madison Webb ’11, as the Development Associate at the American Red Cross. Libby’s son, Walker, is graduating from USC this May but will play one more year on the USC Basketball Team. Her son, Gus, is a KA at USC and is coaching football and baseball at Hammond School. Catherine Pittman Smith has re-niched her photography business by adding custom coffee table books. It is called Art(full) Creations.

CLASS OF 1987

25th Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

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lyndsmith@comcast.net

Kathryn Schilling-Oakes lives in Knoxville, TN with her husband and 11-year-old daughter, Clara, where she is a substitute teacher/commissioned artist. Rachel Hean Dobson’s three gorgeous girls; Mike and Hannah’s cute girls; Mike and Happy Smith Mason with their three boys; Rachel Cauthen Rohrer with Kathryn & Philip, and Tammy Gossett Graves’ son, Daniel and graduating senior, Becca.

CLASS OF 1989

Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend, 2013

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Alice Fuller Littlejohn
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Christmas card photos gave annual testament to the passing of time, and our growing children! Cards arrived from Becky DuBard Grantland, Kristin Austin Smith, Barbara Deuke Laniff, Sydney Jordan Warren, Cindy Hume Kirschner, Ginny Agee Spears, Stacie Olesy Sharp and Ashlin Blanchard Potterfield. Cindy’s cards are always creative and entertaining. She reports that their lives are busy in Beaumont, TX, and they enjoyed a two-week Disney trip in 2013. They are looking forward to a multi-state two-week trip in summer 2012. Stacie and family are well and happy to be back in their home following the long ordeal of rebuilding after the fire that destroyed their old one. Ashlin’s card included photos from a New Orleans trip and daughter Linsy (12) cheerleading. Ginny’s card had gorgeous shots of their family in Pisa and the Italian Alps. From the photos, it is also clear that she has passed along her artistic genes to her children! Please send news of your lives, and find the Converse Class of 1988 on Facebook to keep in touch.

CLASS OF 1990

Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend, 2014

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Charlotte, NC 28210-4245, 704.552-8604
k_rawles@bellsouth.net

It’s complete!! The Centennial Courtyard, funded by generous donations from members of our class, is now finished and looks great! It’s a gathering place, a place to hang out, a party place, a cookout place. And it is beautiful!! Stop by the campus soon and have a visit. And a great big THANK YOU to all those who helped make this happen! We should all be proud to have such a nice area on campus— our way of giving back to our alma mater. We will definitely be utilizing this area in two years when we meet up for our 25th reunion (ouch). Come join us on our Facebook Group page, and remember to send in your updates to Rawles, Joy or Wallace.
IN MEMORIAM
Doris Lavin Cuddihee '90, March 7, 2011
Joe Ann Shearer Lever, Honorary Alumna, November 23, 2011

SYMPATHY
Brandy Belk Long '90 on the death of her father, John Maxwell Belk, November 22, 2011
Frances Jeter Stowe '91 on the death of her husband, Joseph Scott Stowe, August 29, 2011
Beverly Moore Willis '91 on the death of her grandmother, Nell Mason Barr, October 7, 2011
Joy Adams Bethea '93 on the death of her grandmother, Christine Eloise Dudley Iseman, January 22, 2012
Amanda Townsend Coble '93 on the death of her father, Richard Taylor Townsend, November 5, 2011
Dori Davis Helms '98 on the death of her grandmother, Mildred Cope Salkers, August 6, 2011
Kimberly Howell Clobes '99 on the death of her mother, Karen Diane Howell, October 10, 2011
Nikki Maples-Reynolds '99 on the death of her grandmother, Mildred L. Rigby, December 29, 2011
Beth Robbins Cooper '99 on the death of her grandmother, Nelson Ray Upton, July 30, 2011

MARRIAGES
Elizabeth Fleet Hudnall '96 to David Edward Bogan, October 13, 2011
Aimee Welch Waldrop '96 to Kevin Dehlinger, August 17, 2011

BIRTHS
Simeon Richard Hembree, November 6, 2011, son of Richard and Katherine McKay Hembree '90
Amelia Wesley McCombs, August 22, 2011, daughter of David McCombs and Julie Simonton '91
Ella Aminah Washington, October 27, 2011, daughter of George and Kathi Phillips Washington '95

IN MEMORIAM
Amelia Wesley McCombs, August 22, 2011, daughter of Christina Eloise Dudley Iseman, November 5, 2011
Heyward Hunt Williams, August 17, 2011, son of Wayland Banks Wilkins, March 7, 2011, son of
Jacob Herbert Watson, August 17, 2011, son of Sharaiah Choice Watson '99

CAREER CHANGES
Ginger Corbin Church '92, Senior Account Executive, Specialized Fundraising Services, Spartanburg, SC
Austin Faulk Hudson '93, Operating Budget Manager, Charlotte Area Transit, Charlotte, NC
Kelly Wuzzardo '95, Director of Education and Outreach Initiatives, Shubert Theater, New Haven, CT
Kerry Ashley Easler '96, Community Development Planner, Spartanburg County, Spartanburg, SC
Carrie Hill Coleman '96, Director of Alumnae and Donor Relations, Converse College, Spartanburg, SC
Heather Stead Hummel '96, Family Facilitator, Columbia County School System, Evans, GA
Neal E. Millikan '97, Assistant Editor for the Adams Papers, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, MA
Paige Eubanks-Barrow '98, Associate Vice President of Donor Relations, Oklahoma State University Foundation, Stillwater, OK

CLASS OF 1990
Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2015
Rosemary Glaze Sullivan 14 Southington
Overton, Hampshire RG25 3DA, England
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mamiesullivan@hotmail.co.uk
Cheryl Owens Verdell 138 Samantha Drive
Inman, SC 29349-9149, 864.814.0440
dvernell@bellsouth.net

GREETINGS '91ers! It is hard to believe a year has gone by since our 20th reunion! Everyone seemed to be aging so gracefully and I am sure that is still the case. A group gathered last fall at Murrells Inlet, SC. Laura Johnston Stacy, Elizabeth Wagstaff Middleton, Sonya Harmeyer Marsden, Mindy Arbogast McBurney, Beverly Maybank Burgdorf, Elizabeth Foster Meek, Mary Mac Robinson Wilson, Susie Edmonds Palmer, Debbie Moise and Maria Macaulay Sellers were all there. Maria’s husband is home from the Middle East. Beverly Maybank Burgdorf’s husband has been promoted to Lt. Col. Burgdorf! Beverly took a trip to DC and saw Sonya. Dianne Prince Swann has been promoted to part-time teacher, part-time administrator and sells Thirty-One. Suzanne Silk Strickland has a new job at the Panama City Library. Prayers of recovery are needed for classmate, Judy Moody, who suffered a massive heart attack in January and had quadruple bypass surgery. Her Connie friends have certainly rallied around her. Charlotte Page is President of the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Transylvania County. Charlotte and Jenny Howard took a fabulous fall trip to Italy. I have helped start a Mother’s Morning Out at our church and work several days a week.—Dorsey

CLASS OF 1991
Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2016
Dorsey Daugette DeLong 3070 Greendale Drive NW
Atlanta, GA 30327-1609, 404.609.9405
teamdelong@comcast.net

Dianne Prince Swann
711 Lake Drive
Snellville, GA 30039-6635, 770.929.0077
dswann@rock12.k12.ga.us

GREETINGS ‘91ers! It is hard to believe a year has gone by since our 20th reunion! Everyone seemed to be aging so gracefully and I am sure that is still the case. A group gathered last fall at Murrells Inlet, SC. Laura Johnston Stacy, Elizabeth Wagstaff Middleton, Sonya Harmeyer Marsden, Mindy Arbogast McBurney, Beverly Maybank Burgdorf, Elizabeth Foster Meek, Mary Mac Robinson Wilson, Susie Edmonds Palmer, Debbie Moise and Maria Macaulay Sellers were all there. Maria’s husband is home from the Middle East. Beverly Maybank Burgdorf’s husband has been promoted to Lt. Col. Burgdorf! Beverly took a trip to DC and saw Sonya. Dianne Prince Swann has been promoted to part-time teacher, part-time administrator and sells Thirty-One. Suzanne Silk Strickland has a new job at the Panama City Library. Prayers of recovery are needed for classmate, Judy Moody, who suffered a massive heart attack in January and had quadruple bypass surgery. Her Connie friends have certainly rallied around her. Charlotte Page is President of the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Transylvania County. Charlotte and Jenny Howard took a fabulous fall trip to Italy. I have helped start a Mother’s Morning Out at our church and work several days a week.—Dorsey

CLASS OF 1992
20th Reunion – April 27-28, 2012
Angela Wilkes Gage
5119 Woodlands Hills Drive
Brentwood, TN 37027-5821, 615 750 2669
gage0920@comcast.net
Anna Wimberly Pierce
34 Carlton Drive NE
Atlanta, GA 30342-3202, 404 252 8324
mpierceamar@aol.com

Hi Friends! It looks like we are going to have a great turn out from our class for this year’s Converse Reunion 2012 weekend! For those of you who haven’t decided, I would encourage you to register and come join the fun! Be sure and mark your calendars for our class meeting on Saturday morning of the reunion at 11 am in Kuhn Hall. Anna has been so gracious to be our representative for the past 10 years, and we appreciate all of her hard work and dedication. We’ll also take our class picture following the meeting. For those of you who haven’t joined the Converse College Class of 1992 Facebook group, please add this group to your Facebook page. It is another great way to keep in touch with classmates and be aware of what is happening on the Converse campus these days. See you all at the Reunion Cocktail Party, Bluegrass and BBQ Picnic from 6:00-8:30 pm on Friday, April 27th.—Angie (Continued)
CLASS OF 1993
Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2013
Maureen Zeell Dunn
Post Office Box 264
Columbia, SC 29202-0264
mczdunn@aol.com
Jane Manning Hyatt
2429 Jackson Street, Apt. 3
San Francisco, CA 94115-1347, 415 655.9220
converse1993@hotmail.com
Candy Moore
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Atlanta, GA 30309-1148, 704 999.5617
cpmoore1993@yahoo.com

Lovell McClung White, Holle O’Kelley Kennerly, Katherine Russell Sagedy, Christi Williamson Pringle, Shannon Givens Jaynes, Sally Giese Aiken, Elizabeth Watson Caldwell, Patti Floyd Wilbourne, Laura Kate Jones Brandstein and Jane Manning Hyatt gathered in November 2011 for a trip to San Francisco and Sonoma to celebrate our collective 40th birthdays. We picked up a 15 passenger generic white van at the airport and sped off to the Wine Country. We were feeling like 20-year-olds, and some of us still look like 20-year-olds, but the wineries served us anyway. After two days of grapes and vineyards, we stopped for lunch at Fish in Sausalito. Laura Kate held a private jewelry party for us (arrived during our first night) in San Francisco and we all went to Bimbos 365 Club to see “Petty Theft” and “Super Diamond” – yep, a Tom Petty cover band and a Neil Diamond cover band. The “Super Diamond” fans got a little rowdy, but now they know better than to try and push 10 Converse women away from the front of the stage. We enjoyed fabulous meals, and celebrated our amazing friendships that were formed at Converse.—Jane Manning

Oyster Roast on campus, fall 2011

CLASS OF 1994
Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2014
Kristen Harris Cavin
1410 Westhaven Boulevard
Franklin, TN 37064-4879, 615 591.6793
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Holly Miller Smith
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hollybahamas@gmail.com
Mary Ames Voyles
1013 Oak Creek Drive
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MaryAmesV@bellsouth.net

We hope all our former classmates had a wonderful holiday season full of family and friends. One thing that is for sure is that our children made the season so magical. We enjoyed receiving the cards and photos, as well. However, with Facebook, it does seem like we’ve seen each other almost daily! The one thing that most everyone in our class has in common is that we have or will be turning the big 40 this year. It would be fun for all of us to be centrally located so that we could celebrate together- much like we did for the big 2-1! Wishes for a healthy and FUN year!—Kristen Cavin

CLASS OF 1995
Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2015
Laura Kate Moore Garner
101 Cooper Street, Apt. 2E
New York, NY 10034-2328, 646 483.3878
laurakatem@yahoo.com

Kathi Phillips Washington and George and their six children are doing well. Baby Ella joins her five adoring siblings Logan, Sean, Jordan, Grace and Naomi.

CLASS OF 1996
Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2016
Pam Hughes Foster
20 Babbs Hollow Road
Greenville, SC 2907-3734, 864 254.0853
pam@usmedals.com

CLASS OF 1997
15th Reunion – April 27-28, 2012
Shannon Gosnell Bishop
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Spartanburg, SC 29301-6154, 864 384.9050
shannonbishop@gmail.com
Catherine Alexander Girard
1812 Savage Drive
Plano, TX 75023-1835, 214 789.7475
crgirard@gmail.com
Jennifer Coggins Reese
117 Sun Valley Drive
Boiling Springs, SC 29316-7458, 864 599.5383
jreese1975@hotmail.com

Hello Class of 1997! Many of you may already know we suffered a major house fire in January but are blessed to report that Lee, the children and I (Pam Hughes Foster) exited the house safely! We are in the process of rebuilding our home of four years. Carla Malone is moving to Charlotte, NC. Katherine Colburn Fulmer is co-chairing the 4th Annual Spartanburg Art and Antiques Show and chasing boys James (8), Ben (5) and MacLean (18 months) while working full-time at Young Office as the head of their office supply division. She also enjoyed taking the big boys to NYC for the first time in December! Carrie Hill Coleman is excited to be back at Converse working in the Office of Institutional Advancement and encourages you to say “hi” the next time you are on campus! Aimee Concepcion Bauer is residing in Phoenix, AZ, with two cute baby kittens and a super hot new boyfriend! She continues to work for a software engineering company and loves working from home! Jenny Williams successfully defended her dissertation at the University of South Carolina in Higher Education Administration!

GREENVILLE, SC ALUMNAE EVENT AT THE HOME OF PAM HUGHES Foster ’96. Pam is the cheerleader and the devil is Shannon Gosnell Bishop ’97.
Hadley Rowland landed a teaching job two weeks before Christmas. She is teaching middle school art at St. Anslem’s Abby boy’s school in DC. Nina Couch Cardona has had a good year at work. She is a reporter and local host for All Things Considered on Nashville Public Radio. She won Best Radio Newscaster at the Tennessee Associated Press Awards and got a mention and photo in the Nashville Scene’s “Best of Nashville” issue. She took a family trip out to visit Katie Rollins and Katie Proctor Doyle this summer. They got to see a performance of an original play at Chet’s Drama Mama Studio. Chet’s doing amazing work there—running the business, directing shows, editing scripts, and even playing a part in the show. At Katie’s, it was a ton of fun to see her prep for her trip to play (and win!) on Jeopardy. Yes, in case you missed it, our very own Katie Doyle Proctor was a contestant on Jeopardy. The episodes aired in October and she won over $50,000! Don’t forget to mark your calendars to attend the reunion at Converse on April 27–28, 2012. We’d love to see everyone there!

CLASS OF 1998
Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2013
- Shannon Gordy Haynes
  20 Sunset Drive
  LaGrange, GA 30240-4026, 706.882.7189
  littleheartsoflagrange@yahoo.com
- Laura Matthews Pappas
  13710 Harcum Road
  Phoenix, MD 21131-1608, 410.667.0203
  lpappas@entertainment.com

Kristi Hines Haggood enjoyed her second year helping to coordinate the Dog Gone Cold 5K Run/Walk in August, GA. Over 400 participants, as well as local rescues and vendors, came out on a rainy day to help raise money for the American Black and Tan Coonhound Rescue & Hopeful Hounds, Inc. Kristi is passionate about improving the welfare of animals, and works to support rescue groups in transporting needy animals from shelters, to foster homes and adopters.

Helen Walker Tolar is enjoying being back in Washington, DC and working on the Hill again. She was featured last summer in National Journal’s “Women Power: Fourteen Powerful Women on the Hill.” She and her family are enjoying their new home, as well, up in Baltimore, MD. She is also looking forward to making it back down to South Carolina this summer for a visit with family. Please also remember to support Converse’s Annual Fund if you are able!

CLASS OF 1999
Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2014
- Stephanie Eldridge Avakian
  12932 Kings Lake Drive
  Gilbertson, FL 33534-3905, 813.443.6185
  Flipper913@gmail.com
- Emily Harbin
  328 Lake Forest Drive
  Spartanburg, SC 29307-3725, 864.529.0462
  charbins@gmail.com

Ericka Shay Tyner 02 to John Grodman, August 14, 2011
Sarah Belk Yarborough 02 to Adam Dearbaugh, November 5, 2011
Amber Elizabeth Blackwell 03 to Jeremy Vance Childers, October 11, 2011
Fanchon Olivia Charmigo 03 to Kevin Tabb, February 14, 2011
Jennifer Leigh Mazell 03 to Eric Roland, July 15, 2011
Anna Lauren Campbell 05 to Dever Dewayne Davis, November 19, 2011
Lisa Wingo Moody 05 to Mikell Teddy Edge, July 21, 2011
Amy Elizabeth Gunter 06 MEd to Jefferson Lawrence Ridley, August 6, 2011
Courtney Christine Layland 07 to Edwin Cahan, December 23, 2011
Lauren Ashley Maxwell 07 to John Young Shik Conclinn, April 28, 2011
Randall Ryan Vincent 07 MAT to Chrstin Kirpatrick, September 10, 2011
Brandy Helen Elizabeth Wyont 07 to Natalie Rose Davies, May 23, 2011
Elizabeth Ramsaur Lowndes 08 to James Schoonover, July 30, 2011
Mollie Erin Miller 08 MEd to Jarred Stephen Pearson, September 24, 2011

Jennifer Marie Nockels
323 Stillwater Circle
Boiling Springs, SC 29316-4828, 864 583.5236
nockels@gmail.com

Several of our classmates have recently gotten new jobs. Elizabeth Thompson Dabbs is working in Jacksonville, FL for Vizergy in their Client Internet Marketing Services Department. Rachel Burgess Van Gorden is working at Artisphere in Arlington, VA. Rebecca Roland Hyleman and her family moved to Costa Rica in August where Rebecca is now the new program coordinator for the Regional Security Office at the US Embassy. A few of our classmates have also recently gone back to school. Sarah Farnaby started her PsyD in Clinical Psychology at The American School for Professional Psychology (Argosy, DC) in the fall. Jennifer Nockels is working toward becoming a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant through Greenville Tech. Jaime Powell just returned from traveling, learning, and teaching in Brazil. She is enjoying combining her passions in her vibrant career as a life coach and yoga teacher, with plans for a fully packed summer of mind-body summer camps for children and teens. Laurie Ringer Coggins and her family just bought their first house in Lexington, SC. Katy Krueger Corbin just got her BFA in Studio Art (Photography and Printmaking) from Converse. Julie Padgett Jones, Katy Krueger Corbin, Sarah Power Love and Kelly Moore ’00 meet once a month in Greenville, SC, for a Girls’ Night Out.

IN MEMORIAM
Laurie Ann Egeland 05, December 19, 2011

SYMPATHY
Elizabeth Langford Hansen 00 on the death of her father, Thomas Clifton Langford, Jr., December 26, 2011
Elizabeth Anne Oswalt 02 on the death of her father, Donald W. Oswalt, September 4, 2011
Kaysie Davis Brady 03 on the death of her grandmother, Mildred Cope Salters, August 6, 2011
Myra Green Taylor 04 on the death of her father, Dale E. Green, August 18, 2011
Erin Poston Stone 04 on the death of her husband, Patrick Timothy Stone, October 19, 2011
Stinson Woodward Ferguson 07 on the death of her father, James C. Ferguson, October 7, 2011
Ashley Ginn 09 on the death of her father, Marion Franklin Ginn, April 23, 2011

MARRIAGES
Elizabeth McMillan Powell 00 to James Bradley Eggert, September 4, 2011

Alana Aimsley Starwalt 08 to Aulden McAbee, October 28, 2011
Sarah Anne Birch 09 to Thomas Floyd, October 1, 2011

BIRTHS
Eva Madison Cox, September 5, 2011, daughter of John and Amanda Crane Cox 00
Noah Walker Sox, April 24, 2011, son of Jason and Angela Lee Sox 00
Ellison Anne Joye, January 5, 2012, daughter of Jay and Erin Patterson Joye 00
Ella Kwan Cao, August 30, 2011, daughter of Viet and Pamella Holliday Cao 01
Elaine Marie Johnsey Burke, November 21, 2011, daughter of Jason and Nicole Johnsey Burke 01
Charles Samuel Davis, June 21, 2011, son of Thomas and Susan Powell Davis 01
Margaret Jane Lowry, October 5, 2011, daughter of John and Nancy Schwartz Lowry 01
Quinn Riley Wesol, October 10, 2011, daughter of Nick and Erin Stone Wesol 01
Jackson Alvin Oswald, September 19, 2011, son of Zachary and Michelle Wright Oswald 01
Wesley Alexander Rapp, January 25, 2012, son of Alex and Davis Eli Cook Rapp 02
Esther Faith Flores, November 5, 2011, daughter of Saul and Alyson Gery Flores 02

(Continued)

Moses Lamar Whitney, April 7, 2011, son of Rickey and Lashauana Mills Whitney ’02

Ella Gray Holland, April 29, 2011, daughter of Chris and Jessica Case Holland ’03

Greer Elizabeth Elliott, February 26, 2011, daughter of Rob and Andrea Ezell Elliott ’03


Robert Wilson Saleeb, August 10, 2011, son of Wilson and Quinn Burris Saleeb ’04

Riley Johnson, April 4, 2011, daughter of Shawn and Rachel Duby Johnson ’04

Gerald Allen Brasington, Jr., November 29, 2010, son of Gerald and Anne Gaddy Brasington ’04

Ella Page Kern, September 6, 2011, daughter of Brian and Susan Petty Kern ’04

Miles McLaughlin Little, October 19, 2010, son of Andrew and Allison Shell Little ’04

Averette Reeves Beckham, May 5, 2011, daughter of Griff and Gretchen Williams Beckham ’04

Macey Yvonne Todd, November 8, 2011, daughter of Jeff and Melissa Ballard Todd ’05

Reagan Senna DiPrima, August 30, 2011, daughter of Michael and Kara Hagar DiPrima ’05

Ezra Elias Schulz, November 23, 2011, son of Austin and Jacqueline Hobelka Schulz ’05

Hamilton Craig McCall, May 11, 2011, son of Jared and Lindsey Parker McCall ’05

Kenna Grace MacDonald, August 11, 2011, daughter of Jon and Tania Patino MacDonald ’05

Eljah Arti Clausen, August 19, 2011, son of Andrew and Inbal Stein Clausen ’05

Ella Miriam Waite, September 8, 2011, daughter of Mark and Joy Ward Waite ’06

Mary Elizabeth Boccecci, March 2, 2010, daughter of Tresan and Andrea Jett Boccecci ’08

Abigail Evelyn-Grace Blakely, April 4, 2011, daughter of Adam and Leala Shisaldy Blakely ’08

Liam Elliot McAbee, July 11, 2011, son of Alden and Alana Starwalt McAbee ’08

William Jefferis McKenzie, December 28, 2011, son of Avery and Lindsay Wallace McKenzie ’08

Alison Turner Watson ’03, MT-BC, Music Therapist, Lawson Academy of the Arts at Converse College, Spartanburg, SC

Jordan Greene Standrich ’04, Human Resources Specialist, Lubrizol Advanced Materials, Inc., Spartanburg, SC

Heather Bedsole ’05, Administrative Coordinator, Dan Ryan Builders, Charleston, SC

Marion DeWitt Carroll ’05, Club Manager and Food and Beverage Director, The Country Club of South Carolina, Florence, SC

Krista Johnson ’05, Lecturer in Flute, University of Texas - Pan American, Edinburg, TX

Jennifer Johnson ’05, Social Studies Department Chair, SCSDB Defal High School, Spartanburg, SC

Libby Long Richards ’05, Nonprofit and Community Engagement Officer, Triangle Community Foundation, Durham, NC

Niki Castle ’06, Events and Marketing Manager, Parramuss Books, Nashville, TN

Kimberly Smith ’06, Assistant Director of the Converse Annual Fund, Spartanburg, SC

Anna C. Harris ’07, Instructor of English, Augusta State University, Augusta, GA

Courtney Bond ’08, Doctor of Chiropractic, Bond Chiropractic Health Center, Pittsburgh, PA

Madison Boyd ’08, Fifth Grade Teacher, Barringer Academic Center, Charlotte, NC

Jennifer Bronson ’08, Program Manager, Youth Villages, Memphis, TN

Lindsay Daniel ’08, Law Clerk, Speed, Seta & Waters, LLC, Lawrenceville, GA

Jodi Hylton ’08, Commercial Analyst, Diageo/Red Stripe, Kingston, Jamaica

Andrea Jett Boccecci ’08, Senior Accountant, Trident United Way, North Charleston, SC

Melody McClellan ’08, Cast Member, Opera Carolina, Charlotte, NC

Rachel Ng Hansen ’08, Admissions Counselor, Converse College, Spartanburg, SC

Tiffany Ours ’08, IT/media specialist, elementary computer, Spanish, and library teacher, Heritage Christina Academy, Brunswick, GA

Colby Sanders ’08, Career Development Facilitator, Spartanburg School District Two, Boiling Springs, SC

Johanna Torres O’Donnell ’08, Owner, Winter Park Trading, Inc., Winter Park, FL

Melissa Vaughan-Kleppel ’08, Stage Manager, Centre Stage, Greenville, SC

Johanna Whitmer ’08, Interior Designer, SGA Architecture, Pawleys Island, SC

Susan Wines ’08, Band and Strings Teacher, Ralph Chandler Middle School, Simpsonville, SC

**ADVANCED DEGREES**

Erika Tyner Groudian ’02, DM, Indiana University, November 2011

Rebekah Reed ’03, BS, UT Southwestern Medical Center, May 2011

Holly Earnhardt Davis ’05, M+30, University of South Carolina, May 2011

Krista Johnson ’05, DMA, University of Missouri - Kansas City, May 2011

Courtney D. Bond ’08, DC, Sherman College of Chiropractic, December 2011

Joslyn Rachel Emmel ’08, MLIS, University of South Carolina, December 2011

Tiffany Ours ’09, MAE, University of Phoenix, January 2011

Melissa Vaughan-Kleppel ’08, MFA, Sarah Lawrence College, May 2010

Lindsay Waller McKenzie ’08, MA/EdS, Gardner Webb University, December 19, 2011

Triona Gateley ’09, MBA, University of Georgia, May 2011

Mary-Lacey Rogers ’09, MMus, The Peabody Institute at John Hopkins University, May 2011

**CLASS OF 2000**

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2015

Amanda Crane Cox

8 Grousse Ridge Way

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acranecox@yahoo.com

Kiley Rikard

708 East Church Street

Monroe, GA 30655-2306, 404.520.0868

kileyrikard@hotmail.com

Hey Pink Panthers! Hope you are all doing well! Cheryl Schlub Mallant has moved to the Seattle, WA area and is now the assistant director of Bellevue Children’s Academy. She and Michael also own a coffee stand in a nearby town. Congratulations to Janel Doxide who was featured in the January issue of Atlanta Best Self Magazine! You inspire us, Janel! Susanna Knight Roberts, Deanna Fults and I were able to visit the Converse campus in January and had a great time! We hope to hear from YOU next time!!!—Kiley

**CLASS OF 2001**

Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2016

Erin Stone Wosel

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Kristen Bottenfield Willimon

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kbwillimon@yahoo.com

Marion Sibley Yates

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Newport Beach, CA 92660-2603, 949.417.2211

marionsylates@gmail.com

Kristen Woodward is busy training for her first full Ironman in November. Rebecca Irick Gault and Millan Hayes Edwards went to Charlotte, NC in November to meet Nancy Schwarz Lowry’s new daughter, Margaret Jane. In August, Rebecca Irick Gault, Millan Hayes Edwards, Nancy Schwarz Lowry, Sarah Childers Whipple and Kristen Bottenfield Willimon spent the weekend at Lake Keowee catching up and having a fun girls weekend. Laura Massey Crawford traveled to Djibouti, Africa and Naples, Italy for work last spring. She was able to come close to experiencing life as our service members do and was very excited about this assignment. Ami Price and Rebecca Crandall spent New Years Eve in Iceland with their husbands and Rebecca’s daughter, Alice. Nina Williams Everett is currently deployed to Afghanistan. She left in August
Impact. She also blogs daily at burningbushes.org. Still doing research and writing for Global Scripture in addition to taking care of her children, Nicole is four children and beginning to home school. In 2011 and hopes to return to the end of 2012. Please remember Nina, her husband, 17-year-old daughter and three-year-old son, as Nina serves our country.

Nicole Johnsey Burke is staying at home with her four children and beginning to home school. In addition to taking care of her children, Nicole is still doing research and writing for Global Scripture Impact. She also blogs daily at burningbushes.org.

CLASS OF 2002
10th Reunion – April 27-28, 2012
Laura L. Causey
450 Orion Avenue
Metroga, LA 70005-3228, 504.813.9413
llcausey@yahoo.com

Kerri L. Olson
2213 NE 13th Place
Renton, WA 98056-2701, 425.277.7708
kerri.olson@ucla.com

Laura Causey, Kerri Olson and Jamie Koester Wills all traveled to Naples, FL, in October to support Elizabeth Oswalt and remember her father. Elizabeth Oswalt relocated from Ft. Lauderdale, FL to Atlanta, GA in November. Laura Causey and Kerri Olson met up in Minnesota for a fun-filled weekend and to cheer on their respective hometown NFL football teams, Saints versus Vikings. Kerri Olson and Elizabeth Oswalt traveled to Spartanburg, SC on January 7, 2012, to find a location for our Class Reunion dinner in April and visit Melinda Redman Cody. Kerri Olson and Elizabeth Oswalt spent a weekend in NYC in January, catching up with Tiffany Thornton and seeing the sights. Tiffany Thornton and Anna Millikan traveled to North Carolina for a weekend to catch up with Victoria Hendry Bostick and her baby girl Josie Bostick. Don’t forget to checkout our ConverseClassOf2002 YouTube Channel and our Facebook Group Converse College Class of 2002 for video updates from around the world and information in regards to our upcoming 10th reunion in April 2012, we hope to see y’all there!

CLASS OF 2003
Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2013
Megan Russell Bates
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Anderson, SC 29625-4916, 864.231.7687
gem1813@hotmail.com

Melissa Heathery Brannen
225 TIMBERGATE Drive
Lexington, SC 29073-9491, 803.338.7999
melissiaab@gmail.com

Allison Turner Watson
24 H Street
Inman, SC 29349-1721, 864.472.5809
alison.watson@converse.edu

Megan Russell Bates recently rescued a new feline, whom her boys named Sophie. Melissa Heatherly Brannen and Carla Nelson Martin met up for a play date at the park with their children. Rachel Hunt Donahue visited Converse this winter and met Amanda Shook Mershon, she and Alison Turner Watson met for lunch at Papa’s Breakfast Nook.

Alison’s work on a collaborative project at New Day Clubhouse of Spartanburg was recently published in The Arts in Psychotherapy, Converse professors Anne Lipe, PhD, MT-BC and Elizabeth York, PhD, MT-BC were instrumental in developing and sharing this project. Alison keeps in touch with Sarah Koch Burns ‘05 and Tracy Huskey Eggleton ‘05. Alison’s jewelry is available online (Facebook: Ally’s Dilly Dallys). Alison and husband Shaun had a great time catching up with Lex (Meredith) Herndon in Asheville, NC and playing music around a cabin campfire on the French Broad River. Lex is pursuing a Masters and is teaching Zumba classes in Nashville, TN. Because of her love of Zumba and good nutrition, she has lost 150 pounds! Visit her Facebook page, Love Your Body (Nashville, TN), for details on her classes and healthy lifestyle. Our new Facebook group is Converse College Class of ‘03. Join us and keep in touch!

CLASS OF 2004
Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2014
Casey Addis
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culddis@gmail.com

Kate Carr
900 Greenwood Avenue NE, Apt. 8
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katecarr82@yahoo.com

Jennie Zehr
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Boiling Springs, SC 29316-6819, 864.415.7563
jennie.04@hotmail.com

Emily Gaudier started at New England Law | Boston in the fall of 2011. Tasha Layton has been touring with Katy Perry since May 2010. Kate Carr is the Operations Manager for Anthropologie in Atlanta, GA. Casey Addis joined the State Department and is working in Geneva, Switzerland for the US Ambassador to the UN Human Rights Council.

CLASS OF 2005
Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2015
Danielle Beckford
194 Stone Mill Lane
Marietta, GA 30064-2620, 713.446.0351
danielle.moos@converse.edu

Heather Engelmann
100 Gateway Boulevard
Greenville, SC 29607-5852, 864.415.0631
hengelmann@gmail.com

Libby Long Richards
5720 Loyal Avenue
Durham, NC 27713-2037, 919.758.9734
LibbyL.Richards@gmail.com

Join our Facebook group to share information and to receive class updates. Andrea Weatherman is currently in Germany as a part of a Fulbright grant. She has been enjoying time spent with fellow Converse graduate and Fulbright scholar, Stephanie Jennings ’11. After six years of teaching Special Education, Donna Fuller Cline is now a stay-at-home mom of two boys, David (4) and Asher (8 weeks). Allison Dalbec Buchheit and her husband Paul recently moved to Fort Myers, FL after Paul was promoted to head athletic trainer of the Boston Red Sox’s minor league baseball team. Charity Mahaffey Gonzalez recently took a promotion within Sealed Air, Cryovac Division. Kara Hagood, husband Michael, and baby Reagan are settling into a new home in Atlanta, GA.

CLASS OF 2006
Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2016
Mallory Beckett
96 Ashley Avenue, Apt A
Charleston, SC 29401-1270, 864.419.2215
mallorybeckett@gmail.com

Clare Marie Slocum
825 4th Avenue West, Apt. 4
Hendersonville, NC 28739-4863, 828.702.4976
claire.m.slocum@gmail.com

Parrussus Books in Nashville, TN, where Niki Castle has accepted a position, has opened to much acclaim, including a front-page article in the New York Times. This past fall, Mallory Beckett, Molly Stoehr Moyer, Brenan Riddle Montgomery, Jennifer Wahl Settle, Melissa Meyew Hewitt and Elizabeth Walker met up with Rebecca Gale and Niki Castle in Nashville, TN for a weekend full of fun, shopping and even the Women’s Running Magazine 5K!

CLASS OF 2007
5th Reunion - April 27-28, 2012
Grace Bagwell
115 Knottingham Drive
Athens, GA 30606-2105, 864.909.3207
grace.bagwell@gmail.com

Valerie Dowling
510 E. Windsor Avenue
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Deidre D. Tindal
107 Ashley Avenue, Apt. D
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deidre.tindal@gmail.com

Deana Neaves serves in the USAF at Fairchild AFB in Spokane, WA. Paula Just has two little girls, Zakarie (3) and Brantlie (1). She works as a Training Analyst with First Quality Tissue in Anderson, SC.

Anna Harris is a Professor of English at Augusta State University and a contributing writer for Metro Spirit. Whitney Weeks will begin a Doctorate of Pharmacy in fall 2012 at Campbell University and was awarded their highest academic scholarship.

Stinson Ferguson graduated from UGA Law and is working for Circuit Judge Kristi L. Harrington in Charleston, SC. She is also pursuing a Masters of Environmental Law. Lauren Maxwell loves working as a Program Director for the Governors School for the Arts in Greenville, SC. Tina Rohner has been working for Goldman Sachs in Singapore since completing dual Masters Degrees at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore and at the Sciences Po Paris in 2009. Cindy Mao loves her job...
Leadership from The University of Memphis
Johanna Whitmer passed the NCIDQ examination for interior designers. Baye Williamson passed the North American Veterinary Licensing Exam. Leala Shishakly Blakeley moved to Spartanburg and is a full-time mother. Ashley Carry Brunfield lives in Richmond, VA, and works in vaccine development. Her most recent project, the Prevnar vaccine, was just approved by the FDA. Larkin Watson is a licensed financial advisor in Greenville, SC. Katherine Woodward teaches music in Baltimore, MD, and travels as a professional musician. Rachel Ng Hansen is officially an American citizen! Susan Wines was named 2012 Teacher of the Year at Ralph Chandler Middle School and received the WYFF Golden Apple Award. Audrey Jaccard works full-time for her father’s construction company, teaches pottery, and sells pottery online, and at the farmers’ market in Knoxville, TN. Melody McClellan teaches music classes in Cornelius, NC, and sings with Opera Carolina. Lindsay Waller McKenzie received her license as an Assisted Living Administrator. Joslyn Emmel was crowned Miss American Rose South Carolina and runner up in the national competition.

CLASS OF 2009
Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend, 2014
Daniela Burrows
3420 Rawlinson Road
Columbia, SC 29204-3312, 803.331.8787
burrows.dmarie@yahoo.com

Sunset or a Sunrise
Our class has changed a lot since the last issue. AnnaKate Rawles is moving to Cambridge, England, to attend Cambridge University. Krista Williams is pursuing her MFA from Savannah College of the Arts, which was voted the number one college in the US for interior design. Carly Keiser just completed an internship at Dolphin Plus in Key Largo, FL. Rachel Daugherty now owns her own Piano Studio in Augusta, GA, and business is doing wonderfully. Anna Owens started a Model Arab League debate team for her students and they are headed to Nationals in April. Morgan Anderson and Gwen Stembridge both just completed their first year with AmeriCorp Vista and Mary English finished her first year with AmeriCorp NCCC. Gia Monteleone recently traveled to Carnegie Hall in New York to work on a project for Preservation Hall of New Orleans. Congratulations to all of the ladies and their continuing effort to make an impact!

CLASS OF 2010
Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2015
Elizabeth Powell
312 N. Gay Street, Apt 204
Auburn, AL 36830-3908, 843.922.6556
ejp0008@tigermail.auburn.edu

Ashley Shearsmith
921 Steadman Farms Drive
Inman, SC 29349-9300, 803.494.9827
ashleysa@aol.com

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CLASS OF 2011
1st Reunion – April 27-28, 2012
Whitney Stonikinis
210 Hammert Bridge Road
Greer, SC 29650, 864.838.6668
whitney.stonikinis@converse.edu

Hope Williams
269 Sasafias Drive
Easley, SC 29642, 864.320.1902
insideview@bellsouth.net

In October and November, Shelley Reid took a four week course in Barcelona, Spain and now has a TEFL degree with which she can teach English as a foreign language. Shelley tutors Hispanic children, and helps them with their English. See you at Converse for our FIRST class reunion on April 27-28.

10’s

MARRIAGES
Jennifer Lee Brown 10 to Tyson VanDerwerken, November 18, 2011
Kelley Elizabeth Cox 10 MAT to Robert Bruce Schmidt, October 8, 2011
Lauren Kelly 10 to Jake Lowe, January 14, 2012
Mary Nammack Boyle 11 MAT to Charles McDonald Steele, October 15, 2011
Madison Caroline Brewer 11 to Caleb Ledford, December 10, 2011
Jesse Shay Cox 11 to Cody Tangleman, October 6, 2011
Anne Meghan DeLoach 11 MMFT to William Christopher Young, September 17, 2011

CAREER CHANGES
Katie Bowen 10, Soprano Core Member, Virginia Symphony Orchestra Chorus, Norfolk, VA
Marisa Coleman 10, Line Therapist, HopeReach, Spartanburg, SC
Gia Monteleone 10, Administrative Assistant, Preservation Hall, New Orleans, LA
Tiana Pires 10, Organizational Development Consultant, Chicago, IL
Shelley Reid 10, Tutor, Club Z, Mauldin, SC
Kasie Starnes 10, Dancer, Charleston Dance Project, Charleston, SC

Gwen Stembridge 10, Community Organizer & Coordinator of Hunger Programs, Episcopal Service Corps, Cleveland, OH
Amanda Stillinger 10, Accountant, Grant Thornton, Charlotte, NC
Madison Webb 11, Major Gifts Associate, American Red Cross, Columbia, SC

ADVANCED DEGREE
Amanda Stillinger 10, Macc, College of Charleston, June 2011
Boisha Wolford 11 MEd, DEd, Nova Southeastern University, September 2011

CLASS OF 2008
Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2013
Nancy Hannon Clark
bc2and3@aol.com
Sarah Whitfield Marion
swmarion@gmail.com
Elizabeth Martin
elizabeth.martin.sc@gmail.com
Erin Norah McGraw
emcc.mcgraw@pinecrestacademy.org
Nora Nassri
nora.nassri@gmail.com
Johanna Nicole Whitmer
jnwhitmer@gmail.com

Catherine Gifford takes science courses at Converse in preparation for applying to veterinary school. Kelly Orner and Brianne Cross Lefwich are pursuing Masters degrees at USC. Kelly studies social work and Brianne studies speech pathology. Leah Harrison completed her Musicology Masters and is now working towards a Masters in Arts Journalism at Syracuse University. Jennifer Bronson is pursuing her Masters in Strategic Leadership from The University of Memphis Johanna Whitmer passed the NCIDQ examination for interior designers. Baye Williamson passed the North American Veterinary Licensing Exam. Leala Shishakly Blakeley moved to Spartanburg and is a full-time mother. Ashley Carry Brunfield lives in Richmond, VA, and works in vaccine development. Her most recent project, the Prevnar vaccine, was just approved by the FDA. Larkin Watson is a licensed financial advisor in Greenville, SC. Katherine Woodward teaches music in Baltimore, MD, and travels as a professional musician. Rachel Ng Hansen is officially an American citizen! Susan Wines was named 2012 Teacher of the Year at Ralph Chandler Middle School and received the WYFF Golden Apple Award. Audrey Jaccard works full-time for her father’s construction company, teaches pottery, and sells pottery online, and at the farmers’ market in Knoxville, TN. Melody McClellan teaches music classes in Cornelius, NC, and sings with Opera Carolina. Lindsay Waller McKenzie received her license as an Assisted Living Administrator. Joslyn Emmel was crowned Miss American Rose South Carolina and runner up in the national competition.

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