

CONVERSE

BULLETIN

SUMMER 2007



Forces of Change

A ROAD TO NOWHERE



PAGE 4

A RIDE FOR LIFE



PAGE 6

"THE WOMAN'S VOICE IS NEEDED..."



PAGE 10

REUNION 2007 PHOTOS



PAGE 22

2 From the President

4 A Road to Nowhere

6 A Ride for Life

8 Green by Choice

9 It's a Numbers Game

10 "The woman's voice is needed..."

12 Downtown Spartanburg
Perks Up

13 Planned Gifts Create Family Legacy

14 Converse News

20 Alumnae News

22 Reunion 2007 Photos

24 Life Events

27 Class Notes

Editor

Beth Farmer Lancaster '96

Senior Writer

Eric Lawson

Art Director

John Pryor

Production Assistant

Donna P. Gardner

Alumnae News

Jane Marion Wilson '04

Associate Editor – Alumnae

Bobbie Daniel '71

Club Events

Elizabeth G. Simons

The *Converse Bulletin* is published by the Office of Communications, Converse College, 580 East Main Street, Spartanburg, SC 29302, (864) 596-9704. Converse College does not discriminate in admissions or employment on the basis of race, color, sex, national or ethnic origin, age, sexual orientation, religion or disability. Converse admits only women to undergraduate programs and services in accordance with its historical mission.



Dear Converse community, The horrific events and ensuing sadness that engulfed Virginia Tech this past spring have raised a weighty question: How do we stop such madness from happening *over and over* again? Beyond the ramifications of personal safety and the protection of innocent lives, the senseless violence that has shaken the soul of the Virginia Tech campus—and, indeed, colleges across the United States—calls into question a societal complacency that is tied to this tragedy and so many others. Amidst the debates about gun control, metal detectors, campus lockdowns and safer schools we must also consider the threshold that separates responsibility and complacency—and the ways in which we as individuals and as communities respond to the call to action.

Through his Founder's Ideal, Dexter Edgar Converse called the women of Converse College to action. He was confident that with a thorough and liberal education, our highest motives would become clear purposes in engaging the world for the better.

How are we doing? This *Bulletin* issue explores our efforts—individual and collective—in meeting Mr. Converse's expectations and in choosing responsibility and active engagement over complacency. Converse women do choose to make a difference. They are agents of social change through their vocations and avocations. Alumnae and students have devised creative ways to impact positively the community—globally and locally—within various fields including business, education, medicine and the environment. May the forces of change unleashed through a Converse education, and specifically those discussed in this issue, be a source of pride and inspiration.

Harry Lewis, Harvard Professor and former Dean of Harvard College, asserts that universities today—in the race for more funding, more research and more discoveries—have forgotten that the fundamental purpose of an excellent undergraduate education is to turn young people into adults who will take responsibility for society. In his recent book, *Excellence Without a Soul*, Lewis contends that universities *used* to find it more natural to talk about civic responsibility, and more specifically the moral obligations that democracy and education impose on citizens and learners.

We are fortunate that the value of community and civic responsibility have persevered at Converse. However, we must continue to prod, nurture and support forces of change. As a community of scholars and students dedicated to excellence, Converse must continually assess our place and our actions within the world – a world of great challenges and continuous change. As a community of learners and leaders, *how* each of us engages the world around us will be the real testament to the educational experiences and opportunities afforded here.

Writer and poet Maya Angelou recently stated that the most important virtue in life is courage, and that without courage it is difficult to practice all of the other virtues. It will take courage to eliminate hatred, violence and injustice.

In today's global community where it is necessary to think in terms of connections and collaborations, cross-cultural communication, creativity and innovation, the place in the world that each of us occupies is determined by *how* we do what we do—by our exercising clear vision, wise decision and just action.

Converse began a strategic planning process this past spring that will chart our course for the future. Our leadership team is actively considering these kinds of issues as we work together to understand how to best prepare our 21st century students to be leaders in the ever-changing world. I look forward to sharing more information about the plan and engaging your participation in the coming months.

Moving forward while flooded by the *busyness* of daily life, it is my hope that each of us will:

- Have the courage to be agents of social change
- Have the courage to choose responsibility over complacency (in large and small acts)
- Have the courage to actively engage the world around us, building a more caring and compassionate community.

May the force – *of Converse* – be with you! Thank you for your continued support and inspiration.

Betsy

Dr. Elizabeth A. Fleming, President

Universities today—in the race for more funding, more research and more discoveries—have forgotten that the fundamental purpose of an excellent undergraduate education is to turn young people into adults who will take responsibility for society.

A ROAD TO NOWHERE?

Some stretches of highway throughout the country have humorous nicknames. You can cruise through “Malfunction Junction” (I-85), put your pedal to the metal on “The Devil’s Highway” (Route 491) in New Mexico or get your kicks on Route 66 – affectionately known as “Mother Road.” A portion of I-95 is nicknamed the “Corridor of Shame,” but this moniker is no laughing matter. Venture down this heavily traveled highway in rural South Carolina and you will most likely think yourself on a journey back in time.

Some American school districts are constructing high school campuses that make college students envious. Ironically, the Corridor of Shame is home to 136,000 students in thirty-six public school districts where some classes are held in dilapidated facilities dating back to the 1800s. Raw sewage seeps into their classrooms during heavy rains, and they bundle under layers of clothing on winter mornings when classroom temperatures register just a degree or two above freezing. The lack of adequate facilities and other problems caused by too little funding compelled these school districts to take the government to court in a lawsuit handled by Laura Callaway Hart ’75 with a team of lawyers from her Columbia, South Carolina law firm.



Laura Callaway Hart '75

facilities and teacher pay in the rural districts are adequate.

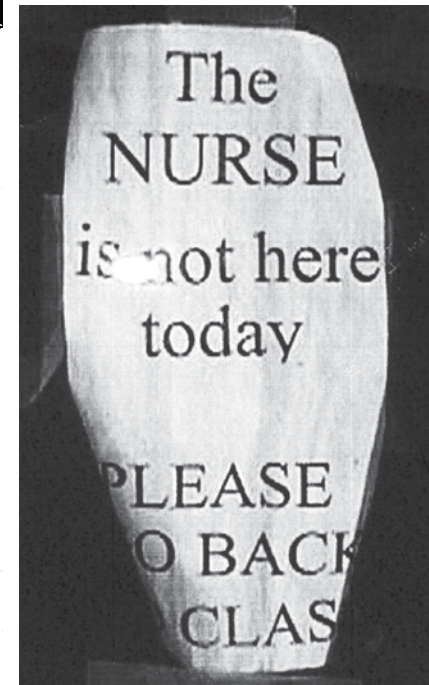
Both sides have asked the judge to reconsider parts of the findings they believe are not supported by the evidence. And they are now waiting—in 2007—for his decision.

Laura’s Road to the Corridor of Shame
After graduating from Converse with a major in piano performance, Laura attended the University of South Carolina School of Law. She distinguished herself as winner of the 1983 Woodrow Lewis Moot Court Competition, was named to the Order of the Coif and Order of the Wig and Robe, served as Articles Editor for the South Carolina Law Review and finished fourth in her class with cum laude honors.

Laura sees a common thread between piano and law: “To be successful in law or music, one has to be accustomed to discipline, competition and performance,” she says.

After graduation, Laura went to work for Turner Padgett Graham & Laney P.A. in Columbia and began working with Carl B. Epps on the Corridor of Shame case. The two later moved to Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough and took the case with them. “The firm has a great commitment to pro bono work, and agreed during the pre-trial process that this case, with its great impact on the public interest and the financial strains on the rural school districts that we represented, should be handled on that basis. I

Raw sewage seeps into their classrooms during heavy rains, and they bundle under layers of clothing on winter mornings when classroom temperatures register just a degree or two above freezing.



“I’m not supposed to get sick today.”
~Tierra Henderson, Grade 5, West Hardeeville School

Until she saw the condition of the school districts first-hand, Laura admittedly did not have a full appreciation for the case. “There is virtually no tax base to support these rural districts because they usually have only a handful of businesses. Some of these children are rarely taken outside of their county because their families cannot afford it, so their world becomes constrained. There is a history of under-education in these areas, and children gradually lose their sense of hope as they get older.”

Laura sees the problem exacerbated when school districts are unable to hire and retain high quality teachers. “Some of the schools regularly experience a 25-30% turnover rate,” she says.

A Day in Court for 136,000 Children

The trial lasted 102 days with Laura and Carl’s team bringing in national and international education experts. They argued that it was the state’s responsibility to provide proper funding for the districts. “Local communities have power to make decisions regarding education, but

am extremely proud of my firm’s commitment to pro bono work, in this case as well as many others.

“Carl and I did most of the pre-trial work, but as the case approached trial, the firm committed other attorneys, paralegals and staff to the case. At one point, we had as many as 25 people working on it, all without charge to the clients.”

the state constitution places the ultimate responsibility for providing an education with the state. We argued that the education provided must be a certain quality in order to be effective,” Laura asserted.

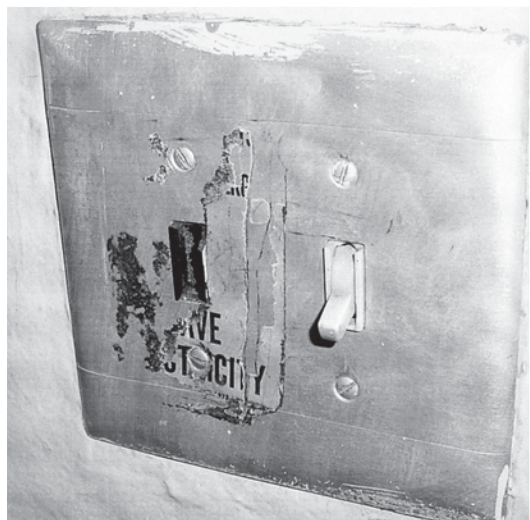
The case received attention throughout the country and earned Laura’s firm the John Minor Wisdom Public



“We can’t see out of our classroom windows, and many of them are broken.”
~Janai Cabrera, Grade 8, J.V. Martin Junior High School

Service and Professionalism Award from the American Bar Association Section on Litigation. Laura even appeared on stage at the Apollo Theatre in New York City as a panelist for a discussion moderated by Ellis Cose, contributing editor of *Newsweek*.

In Laura’s view, poor funding for schools affects more than a particular town; it gradually becomes a problem for all of us. “The State Department of Education and the schools are trying to do their jobs but they simply do not have adequate funding. A democratic society must have an educated population. We are depending upon our citizens to cast an informed vote, to sit on juries and to provide for their own families. We can’t have half of our children dropping out of school and expect to have a successful society or a vibrant economy.”



“Don’t use the light switch.”
~Kaneisha Staten, Grade 7, West Hardeeville School



“I don’t ever use the restroom at my school. It stinks and depresses me.”
~Janai Cabrera, Grade 8, J.V. Martin Junior High School

THE CORRIDOR OF SHAME
FORCES of CHANGE

A Ride for Life

According to Mapquest.com, it takes 34 hours and 13 minutes to drive the 3,085 miles from San Diego, California to St. Augustine, Florida. That's assuming you obey the speed limit and do not stop for breaks. Judy Walker Teele '66 made the trip in 56 days. But then again, she was on her bike maintaining an average speed of about 14mph.

Judy joined 24 other hearty cyclists—all women—on March 10, 2006 to trek across the southern tier of the continental US. The bikers chose to ride for varying causes; some biked for breast cancer, Judy biked to support the Boston-based EmbraceLife Cure Leukemia in our Lifetime.



After developing a successful career as a public relations consultant and free-lance writer, Judy “quietly sought a rigorous challenge that might expand my own horizons while simultaneously benefiting leukemia research. I was especially interested in something outdoors and physically demanding.”

She found her challenge in a cross country bike trek. “The Dana-Farber Institute is a principle teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School. It has made important breakthroughs in treatment for childhood leukemias, and is exploring new, more effective methods for treating adult leukemias.”

Judy contacted as many of her friends as possible to tell them what she had in mind. She said that the best way they could help her would be to donate money for Dana-Farber.

At age 62, Judy strapped on her bike helmet and pushed off from San Diego, California with her bike mates. The youngest of the group was 34; the oldest, 70. That first day, the group biked 33 miles. They would go on to log several 90 and 100 mile days, resting only nine of the 56 day trip.

“I crossed both interior and exterior landscapes otherwise unknown to me as I rode from California to Florida. There was a lessening of fear and an opening to the moment. And always I was overwhelmed by the kindness of those who followed my ride and supported my cause for leukemia research in memory of my son, Hank. The heat, wind, rain, freak snowstorms, continental divides, crazy urban traffic, bad roads, unimaginably steep hills and often back-to-back 90-mile-days challenged me in expected physical ways. But the unimaginable challenged me to my core, requiring emotional courage.”

Nature's challenges were to be the least of the group's concerns. “In Texas, at the midpoint of our journey, sister biker Laraine Logattolla was hit by an SUV, sustained massive head injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident. Her death was a startling reminder that we hang by the most fragile of threads. We try to control, to have

continued. The 21 courageous women completing the ride refused to cower.”

On May 4, the group completed their journey from the west coast to the east, and collectively dipped their treaded wheels into the Atlantic surf. Judy, with help from her friends, had raised \$26,000 for the Dana-Farber Institute.

“Was it fun? Positively ‘yes’ and absolutely ‘no.’

In the words of Charles Dickens, ‘it was the best of times; it was the worst of times.’ Although I completed the ride in memory of Hank, the trip was not intended to be a sad, weepy look backwards. In fact, it was about life, not death. The adventure was all about choosing life, embracing life and being present to the moment and the goodness therein.”

Today, Judy is still cycling and is in the midst of writing a book about the trek.

“Although I completed the ride in memory of Hank, the trip was not intended to be a sad, weepy look backwards. In fact, it was about life, not death.”

things our way and in an instant it can all be gone. But to cower in the corner because of life's vicissitudes is not an acceptable way to live, so our bike tour

Judy's son Walker (left) and daughter Nan with Judy in St. Augustine, FL



She is also focusing on another longtime passion: the environment. For the past seven years, she has been a key member of the Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina, a regional land trust comprised of citizens determined to find ways to preserve and protect natural areas and open spaces of the Blue Ridge Foothills. “There are lots of land developers who are moving in like vultures in this area,” said Judy, an immediate past board chair for the organization. “We’re not completely against development; rather we’re for the responsible use of land. North Carolina’s Foothills region is blessed with biologically rich and unique natural features and many large undeveloped areas. But because of our proximity to growing urban centers, the pressure to exploit these natural resources for development is intensifying.”

Even though a cure for leukemia and the full impact of her environmental work will not likely be felt during her lifetime, Judy is doing her part—and then some—to help generations to come. ■



Photograph courtesy of The Charlotte Observer

Judy Teele (second from right) celebrates with her fellow bikers as they reach the end of their three-thousand mile venture.



Leukemia came devastatingly to Judy in 1972 when her two-year-old son, Hank, died of acute lymphoblastic leukemia. “At that time, most people with leukemia experienced a bit of remission before finally succumbing. But Hank died seven months after being diagnosed,” said Judy from her Morganton, NC home. Hank appeared to be a healthy young boy but

that time now and think that maybe I was just so numbed by the whole experience that shock and depression did not have a chance to set in. Neither I nor my family has continued to dwell on this aspect of our lives.” Both Walker and Nan are healthy and live in Durham and Boston respectively.

Green

by Choice

Editor's Note: Christine Bousch of the Spartanburg Herald-Journal contributed to this story.

Most of America struggles to strike a balance between practical lifestyles and saving the planet.

husband, Curt, strive to be role models for their children – teaching them to value and care for our precious planet through simple choices they make each day.

The McPhails incorporate their respect for the environment into as much of their lifestyle as possible. Curt rides his bike to his job at the Mary Black Foundation three days a week to cut down on fuel emissions; the family takes mugs and cups with them when they eat out to avoid using Styrofoam cups; Molly uses bathwater to hydrate her plants; and the family is in the midst of building a new home that will be a certified green building.

The family decided to stop the use of “to-go” cups after learning that using just one styrofoam cup a day creates 23 pounds of non-biodegradable trash a

year. They decided to carry their own cups for use in restaurants that do not offer reusable drink ware. Curt said that dining with the children posed the biggest challenge: “As a kid goes into a restaurant, he is pretty much given a styrofoam or plastic cup. At times it was really difficult to explain we had our own cups, and some people just didn’t get it and continued to bring them anyway.”

The family’s 2006 goal has now become a life practice, and Molly thinks the extra effort it takes is well worth it. “We’re teaching our kids the importance of not being wasteful,” she said.

The McPhails have also dedicated themselves to using alternative transportation to save gas and reduce automobile emissions. Curt rides his bike three miles to work three or four times a week to save gas. They are teaching their oldest son, Luke, the virtue of alternative transportation by using a bike and trailer to take him to school in warm weather. “It’s fun,” said Luke, who is 6. “We try to beat the cars and Dad gets excited because they have to stop at the light and we get to keep going and then we do beat them!”

The new green home is still in the building process. “Thus far, we have a basement,” laughs Molly, “but it’s coming along. We will have bamboo floors and countertops made out of crushed recycled glass. The main issue with green houses is the insulation; they need to be sealed very tightly so that airflow is as efficient as possible. This house will not have the solar panels that people tend to associate with green homes.” The McPhails hope to open the house up to people to show that it is possible to build green homes on a budget. They are keeping a blog about their construction progress at buildinggreensc.blogspot.com.

“We are not on a campaign to get others to live this way; it’s simply the way we choose to live our lives,” said Curt. “We’re not kidding ourselves thinking that the air quality in Spartanburg will suddenly get better just because I ride my bike to work three times a week. And of course we sometimes receive strange looks and comments when we take our mugs and cups into restaurants, but that’s OK. This is our life.”



‘NUMB3RS GAME’

While teaching third grade, Tapp Hancock ’80 grew tired of half of her students not being able to master basic mathematics. “I knew there had to be a better way,” says Tapp, who has taught in California elementary schools for the last twenty years. “Kids want to succeed, but educators need to teach them according to their appropriate learning style and give them the right tools to achieve.”

Guided by the old adage, ‘if you want something done right, do it yourself,’ Tapp set out to find a better way. Han-5, the program she eventually created, was a hit with her students. It earned approval from the State of California as a curriculum supplement and has spread to 17 California school districts, home schools in seventeen states and some 2nd through 6th grades in Singapore, Australia, the Netherlands, Philippines, Bahamas and England.

Han-5 incorporates number puppets, Boogie Boards of hand formations and stories that engage the student’s visual, kinesthetic and auditory senses. It enables students to count, multiply and divide systematically. “If a student is given a linear number pattern that shows how math facts are constructed, they can start to speak the language and then move on to meaningful, conceptual understandings of it,” Tapp says. “When we learn how to read for comprehension, we first learn how to speak the words. Why not apply this same logic to math problems?”

For her innovative and now patented Han-5 program, Tapp was awarded the 2006 Presidential Award of Excellence, the nation’s highest honor for K-12 teachers of mathematics and science. The award, administered for the White House by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and presented to elementary and secondary teachers in alternate years, recognizes a premier group of highly qualified teachers who have both deep content knowledge of the subjects they teach and the ability to motivate and enable students to be successful.



Tapp and other nominees were vetted for the Presidential Award by a state-level committee comprised of prominent mathematicians, scientists, math and science educators, and past award recipients. At the national level, the NSF convened its own committee to review the state finalists and recommend to the President of the United States a single finalist in each category (mathematics or science) for each state or jurisdiction.

Tiffany Tosti, who uses Han-5 in her 3rd grade class at Orangewood Elementary in Bakersfield, California, affirms the important difference that Tapp’s program made for her students. “All different types of learners can benefit,” she said. “The quirky, silly stories and number patterns made multiplication fun. My kinesthetic learners loved moving the number pieces around, my auditory learners loved the stories, and my visual learners loved using my posters and their own hand to help visualize a number pattern. A student with an IQ of 70 who read at a kindergarten level left 3rd grade knowing 90% of his multiplication and division facts. His self-esteem grew tremendously as well.”



More information about Han-5 can be found online at www.han5math.com.

FORCESofCHANGE

"The woman's voice is needed..."

by Gelene Alderman Duncan Ellsworth '63

The year was 1924. It was a miserably hot July in New York City, where the Democratic National Convention was well underway at Madison Square Garden. Bessie Alderman Duncan (Class of 1904) wrote to her husband Walter in Aiken, South Carolina: "I'm becoming increasingly afraid I won't be home in time to vote in the primary if the proceedings don't move along faster. I've never seen such infighting and petty rivalry among people who should be behaving as mature adults, with the good of the country foremost on their minds. The votes of the different delegations change daily, and I don't know if we will ever reach



Bessie Alderman Duncan, Class of 1904

a consensus. A delegate from Alabama comes over constantly, pestering us to change our votes for his candidate, and I would like to brain him. Someone did do that in another part of the hall – a man hit another over the head, and a woman threatened to hit an usher with a chair when he asked her to sit. I have certainly had my eyes opened to incivility!

"Our SC delegates have done exactly as we have been instructed by Governor McLeod [head of the delegation]: we've meticulously followed the rules of the convention, and we've behaved with dignity. When we leave here, even if

our candidate [former Secretary of the Treasury William McAdoo] does not prevail, we will know we have rendered a great service to democracy. That is, if we ever leave. Will Rogers wrote in *The New York Times* that the city only invited us here as guests, not to stay. But he does say the time will come when the country will pay a bonus to the ones who served during the 1924 Democratic Convention!"

Returning to South Carolina on the Silver Meteor (the train from New York to Florida), Bessie reflected in her journal: "We are all exhausted, physically and mentally. But I should not complain, as I worked hard for this precious right to vote. And there I was, one of the few female delegates at the convention! It has all been worth it."

Yes, my grandmother Bessie was a formidable force in the women's right to vote movement. Prior to gaining that right in 1919, with the passage of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, she and other members of the South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs (she was its first president, in 1916) had kept up a constant stream of letters and telegrams to the state's senators and congressmen. Bessie visited them every chance she could when they were home from Washington.

She had grown up with politics. Her father had been a town councilman in Aiken and later served as county sheriff. Her grandfather held public office as Clerk of Court in New Hanover County, North Carolina. Her husband served on Governor Richard I. Manning's staff and later as Comptroller General of South Carolina. He was also owner and publisher of *The Aiken Standard*. She knew personally the state's leading politicians of the time, as well as many journalists. Unlike most of her women friends, Bessie was exceedingly outspoken, and her

letters to the editor appeared frequently in the state's newspapers and periodicals.

Bessie ran for Aiken City Council, writing in the paper to the people of Aiken: "The time has come that the woman's voice is needed, particularly in the steering of city affairs...for this reason, believing it is my duty, I offer for election to Council... Some woman must make the initial step, so I am entering, subject to the rules and regulations of our primary laws."

Ten men ran for the post; Bessie did not win. She was not discouraged, however. She continued her work with the Federation, involving herself in many social issues.

She championed for medical and dental care for the state's children, many whose parents worked in mills or on farms and who had little access to good health care. She worked for better conditions at the Boys' Reformatory in Florence and for homes for mentally challenged girls. She wrote: "Wake up, mothers and fathers, and apply what Christianity you can spare this movement; we are striving for prevention. Go to the top of the precipices and get a hold on our boys and girls, because in waiting we might fail to catch them before they are too bruised and broken to save."

Through the Federation, she lobbied the legislature for the establishment of a State Board of Charities and Corrections, as well as the appointment of women to state boards (only men were appointees).

Working against illiteracy, she drew up a petition to Governor Manning for the appointment of an Illiteracy Commission. He ultimately did this, appointing Bessie as a member and Dr. John Clinkscales of Spartanburg as chairman.

"I worked hard for this precious right to vote. And there I was, one of the few female delegates at the convention! It has all been worth it."



"The Imps" played harmless little tricks on their Converse classmates and faculty. Miss Gee disapproved but was secretly amused. (Bessie is 4th from the left.)

She spoke to schoolchildren about South Carolina history and its heroes; there are numerous research notes in her papers about Andrew Jackson and John C. Calhoun. She and Walter presented a replica of the State Seal to the Aiken Institute (forerunner of Aiken High School), from which she graduated. She told the class of 1935: "Preparation for life must naturally begin with the mind in order that one might become an intelligent citizen...hope for the highest and the noblest for one's state is the truest type of citizenship."

Bessie was adamant in her belief in the temperance movement. She and fellow members of Aiken's First Baptist Church

did not think the Prohibition Laws were being enforced strictly enough. She wrote to *The State* in 1934: "As a staunch conservative and active clubwoman who has consistently upheld the cause of temperance and sobriety, I consider that South Carolina is faced with a great crisis. Women of South Carolina, you have never, since being accorded suffrage, had so great an opportunity to render a real service than now presents itself."



(Below) Bessie in her office at The Aiken Standard, wearing the badge of the SC Federation of Women's clubs; (Right) Bessie and Walter at the Acropolis in Athens, Greece



When my grandfather died, Bessie, with her knowledge of Aiken and its people, entered the real estate business. She assisted her son Alderman (my father) at the newspaper office (he had become publisher), as she had done often for Walter. But her greatest joy was her new involvement with her beloved alma mater, Converse College.

Bessie experienced her first opportunities for leadership at Converse. She believed strongly in women's education and hoped the day would come when all women could have what she had been so privileged to obtain.

She became known as "Miss Bessie" as she traveled the state as an admissions representative, interviewing young women and promoting the College. When I, a later Converse student, met some of the older visiting alumnae, they would tell me how much they admired Miss Bessie and how they were grateful to her for introducing them to Converse.

Those who knew Bessie in her adult years described her as extremely serious, dedicated to duty and with much integrity. Some said she was ahead of her time. But she had a fun side, too. She and five classmates formed "The Imps," who loved pranks and played harmless little tricks on the other girls and the faculty. Miss Gee, as Dean, pretended disapproval but was secretly amused. Thus Bessie definitely had a mischievous side, but it's a good thing she controlled it when she wanted to "brain" the man in New York!

I think our College's esteemed founder, Dexter Edgar Converse, would have been proud of Bessie. I believe she personified his ideal in that the "thorough and liberal education" she received at Converse helped her to aspire "to see clearly, decide wisely, to act justly...to love God and humanity, and be faithful to truth and duty." For additional reading, see *V103rd Ballot: Democrats and the Disaster in Madison Square Garden* by Robert K. Murray "Harper & Row, 1976." 📖



(Left to right) Leigh Squires '08 and Caraleigh Brady '08

Downtown Spartanburg Perks Up

Spartanburg's vision for a lively downtown – bustling with shoppers, diners, business professionals and nightlife enthusiasts – sparked the imagination of Converse students Leigh Squires '08 and Caraleigh Brady '08. The two brewed up the perfect addition to new developments on Morgan Square by opening Cross Roads Coffee, an intimate coffee house featuring live music, wireless Internet, a basic food menu, desserts and artwork from local artists. In launching the business venture the two also added a valuable credential to their resumes: successful entrepreneur.

"Contributing to the downtown revitalization effort was big for us; every city should have a thriving downtown," said Leigh, who is double majoring in studio art and religion.

The concept for Cross Roads Coffee developed two years ago. Leigh remembers, "During our freshman year, we constantly wanted somewhere to hang out and study. After living in Europe and experiencing the community built around coffee houses, Caraleigh wanted to see the same atmosphere come to life in Spartanburg."

The business partners conducted in-the-field research and took their planning process seriously. "We visited coffee houses in every city that we traveled to; we spoke to many people who had experience in the restaurant business; and we read many books pertaining to the subject," explained Caraleigh, an art education major at Converse. "Connections were key in everything that we did, and almost everyone we came across was gracious in teaching us and providing us with valuable knowledge."

With their research complete, Leigh and Caraleigh rolled up their sleeves to bring Cross Roads to life. "We learned that basically anything that is in the store must have a permit and a license. Several people helped us along the way with direction as to how to accomplish it all," said Leigh. "We started with the type of atmosphere we wanted to create and built around that. We had a lot of ideas, and sometimes they would not work exactly the way we wanted them to. We

did a lot of modifying and adjusting. A comfortable environment with a uniquely artistic style was and is our goal."

Caraleigh agrees. "Cross Roads is definitely more than just a coffee house," she said. "All types of people—from Russian immigrants to downtown business folks to college students—come in for conversation. Quite often people meet and develop relationships and ideas over a simple cup of coffee. Our music and art has been such a wonderful way for a variety of people to express themselves. Cross Roads has developed into an outlet for the community with great drinks and food at hand."

Spartanburg's mayor and former chairman of the Converse Board of Trustees, Bill Barnet, is pleased to see the Converse students making such an impact. "Downtown development has brought exciting new energy to the central business district. I am particularly proud to have Converse students working side-by-side with business leaders as investors in the city's success," he said. "Caraleigh and Leigh have become significant contributors to the social and economic well being of our downtown."

After enjoying a successful first year, Leigh and Caraleigh opened a second Cross Roads coffee house in the Easley, South Carolina public library this June.



Leigh says that the most important ingredient to the success of Cross Roads is teamwork. "It's crucial to running a successful business because everyone contributes important assets that other team members do not have. Running a business demands respect, patience, endurance and determination."



Another perk for the coffee women is the ability to travel to research their craft. They spent January in India, living on a family-owned coffee plantation and gaining college credit for doing what they love - experiencing other cultures and drinking coffee.

"That's what is so neat about coffee. You find it in every country, and it's always a unique experience. With coffee, you

sit down and it's a time when you naturally talk. You become part of (a) family," Caraleigh said.

"Some of the greatest events in the world were planned in cafes," added Leigh. ■

PLANNED GIFTS CREATE FAMILY LEGACY: PAST COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON PRESIDENT ESTABLISHED SCHOLARSHIP IN MOTHER'S MEMORY



Ellen Glenn Lightsey '22

Dr. Harry Lightsey, past president of the College of Charleston, cared deeply that young women be afforded the Converse education his mother cherished. Every year, one Converse student with financial need receives \$4,100 towards her tuition thanks to the Ellen Glenn Lightsey '22 Scholarship. Harry established the fund in his mother's memory two years after her death, and today his family continues to build its value.

Following his initial gift of stock in 1985, Harry regularly made contributions to the scholarship until his death in January 2006. Both Harry and his sister, Ellen Glenn Lightsey II who died in 2005, left bequests to benefit the scholarship. Today, the cause is a true family venture: Harry established the Lightsey Family Charitable Trust as a means to encourage his four children to be active philanthropists, and as trustees they continue the family legacy through gifts to the scholarship fund.

Wallace Lightsey, an attorney in Greenville, South Carolina, is inspired by his grandmother's Converse experience and his father's commitment to education. "My grandmother was such a character: energetic and extremely lively," he says. "She was also a bit ahead of her time in the

sense that while women were expected to remain in the background during those years, she was intent upon expressing her mind and was very active in her community—even during the Great Depression. It's important that this scholarship remain at Converse because she had a curious mind which was greatly benefited by the College's liberal arts curriculum.

"Our father was a champion—in every sense of the word—for education, and that was an aspect of his character that we wanted to honor. Although he graduated from Clemson when it was an agriculture and mechanical school, he came to realize and appreciate the value of a liberal arts education such as the one Converse offers to its students." ■

Dr. Harry Lightsey and his wife, Kathleen (far right) with their family



MISS GEE SOCIETY

The Miss Gee Society is the honorary society of alumnae and friends who have made estate provisions or life-income gifts for the support of Converse College.

CONSIDER A BEQUEST TO SUPPORT CONVERSE'S FUTURE

A bequest to Converse College is a powerful expression of your belief in this institution and her future. To make your bequest to Converse, please include the following language in your estate plans:

I give and bequeath ____ % of the residue and remainder of my estate (or the sum of ____ dollars, \$ ____) to Converse College, a South Carolina not-for-profit corporation.

Please contact Dianne Ansley at (864) 577-2088 to discuss how you would like your bequest to benefit Converse College, whether unrestricted or for the support of a particular department or program.

Converse News

New Initiatives Encourage Women in Science: Converse and Clemson Dual Degree in Engineering, Petrie Science Scholars Program

Converse continues efforts to encourage women to pursue science careers through two new programs: an engineering dual degree in partnership with Clemson University and the Petrie Science Scholars.

The engineering program was established in response to the staggering gender imbalance in the engineering profession. According to the National Science Board, women comprise only 10.6% of the engineering workforce in the US.

Students will earn two degrees: a bachelor of science from Converse and a bachelor of science from Clemson in one of their nine engineering disciplines. The program is estimated to take five years to complete.

A study by the Engineering and Technology Department of the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science attributes the gender imbalance in colleges nationwide to a lack of role models, stereotyping as a 'male only' field, experiences of gender bias, and distaste for the competitive nature of science and engineering education.

"Increasing female representation in engineering at the professional level as well as the collegiate level has long been one of our goals and is the chief reason why this partnership with Converse is important to us," said Dr. Stephen Melsheimer, Associate Dean of Clemson's Undergraduate Studies in the College of Engineering and Science.

President Fleming asserts that increasing the pool of women engineers advances business, innovation and solution design due to the fact that women utilize different perspectives and methods. "Engineers are by their nature problem solvers. In today's world, we need individuals with the ability to think critically and creatively, the capacity to collaborate and communicate, sensitivity for the problems of others and a strong



sense of ethical principles. Women tend to have strong aptitudes in these areas."

Leading corporations such as SCANA and the Fluor Corporation praise the new partnership: "We need the absolute best minds in engineering, and that includes both men and women. Fluor Corporation supports this initiative because having more women in engineering allows us to maintain our top-quality staff and meet the needs of our global clients," said Scott Ruby of the Fluor Corporation. Bill Timmerman, CEO of SCANA, echoed with "We are very excited by this new initiative by Clemson and Converse to expand the opportunity for young women to become engineers."

The Petrie Science Scholars program was established with a \$400,000 gift from the Petrie Foundation in New York as a means of increasing the number of women science and math teachers in K-12 schools. The program's ultimate goal is to encourage more female students to explore and pursue careers in these fields. Launching in the fall of 2007, the program will provide scholarships of \$8,000 per year to three students annually who plan to major in math or science and have a desire to teach. The scholarship requirements include tutoring and mentoring students at Spartanburg High School. Following a training program in their freshman year, the scholars will tutor for six additional terms during their college career.

Petrie Science Scholars will benefit from special research opportunities with Converse's science faculty and may serve as assistants in the College's summer science workshop for high school students. These additional enrichments, funded through the Petrie Foundation, will build the resumes of Converse students, strengthen science education in South Carolina and develop a corps of experienced, enthusiastic science educators. ■

New Forensic Science Camp Draws High School Students to Converse

(Portions of this article were written by Sean Flynn of the Spartanburg Herald-Journal) Forensics television shows such as "CSI" garner huge ratings each week from teenage viewers. Playing upon this interest in science, Converse offered a forensics theme for its first science camp for high school students: "CSI Converse."

"One of our most important goals is to encourage and promote science among students in America," said Dr. Neval Erturk, a Converse Biology Professor who led the camp along with Chemistry Professor Dr. Sheri Strickland. "The number of students in this country who are excited about science is so low. In the next 15 to 20 years, America will lose its lead. We want to get the young people involved."

The whereabouts of a millionaire's son, an international health crisis and a murder mystery were among the fictional cases the 18 students dealt with as they learned the ins and outs of forensics. They learned how to investigate crime scenes as well as how to

perform blood and fingerprint analysis. Participants came from South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Florida, Texas and New Mexico.

"I confess that I'm a fan of the CSI shows," Strickland said. "Forensics is a neat way to show chemistry and biology in action – a real-world, interesting, intriguing application of it."

Strickland and Erturk enlisted the help of Brent Glenn of the theatre



Converse Gains Full Membership in Conference Carolinas; Adds Basketball to Conference Play

In a unanimous vote on June 1, officials with Conference Carolinas granted Converse full conference membership status. The conference also announced its name change from Carolinas-Virginia Athletic Conference (CVAC) to Conference Carolinas. Converse has been competing as an affiliate member in the conference since April 2005 and is one of only two women's colleges in the nation competing at the NCAA Division II level.



As an affiliate member, Converse competed with conference opponents in women's soccer, cross-country, volleyball and tennis. Full member status enables the College's basketball program to compete for the conference championship and NCAA Division II tournament. Looking toward

the future, Converse plans to expand its athletic programs by 2008-2009 with lacrosse, golf and swimming on the priority list for consideration.

"We are serious about having one of the best intercollegiate athletic programs available to women and have made significant investments towards this end, including the construction of outstanding facilities and the hiring of an excellent athletic director and coaches," said President Betsy Fleming. "This program is a wonderful opportunity for today's young women. If you are interested in women's sports, you need to look at Converse."

Converse Athletic Director Joy Couch believes that full conference membership positions the program for growth and success. "I came to Converse because of the tremendous potential to build



department to add a little flair to the week. One night, students were thrust into the role of detectives in a murder mystery as Glenn helped them stage a fake murder of one of the participants in Wilson Hall. Also, teacher's assistant Clay Lewis, a biology graduate from North Greenville College, was made up as a possible smallpox victim. Students had 15 minutes to determine possible clues as to what disease he might have and where he might have gotten it. Their DNA analysis showed it was smallpox.

Converse hopes the science camp will engage high school students with science and raise visibility for the quality science programs at the College. ■



an outstanding women's intercollegiate athletic program and the administration's commitment to supporting such an endeavor. Our success in gaining conference membership affirms this decision. We are competing at the highest level of any women's college in the nation and now are backed by a conference membership, so the field is wide open to become a top player. I look forward to building championship teams at Converse."

Conference Carolinas members include: Anderson University, Barton College, Belmont Abbey College, Coker College, Erskine College, Lees-McRae College, Limestone College, Mount Olive College, Pfeiffer University, Queens University of Charlotte and St. Andrews Presbyterian College. ■



National Music Commentator and Performer to Lead Petrie School of Music

Miles Hoffman, known to many as a music commentator for National Public Radio and violist with American Chamber Players, has been named Dean of Converse's Petrie School of Music. He will begin his duties with Converse in August.



Hoffman earned his bachelor of arts with cum laude honors from Yale University and his master of music from the Juilliard School. He is known to most Americans through his music commentaries for NPR's flagship program Morning Edition, on which he is regularly heard by an audience of 14 million people, and for Performance Today, on which he provided weekly commentary for 13 years. A lifelong music educator, Hoffman is author of *The NPR Classical Music Companion: Terms and Concepts from A to Z*, now in its eighth printing from the Houghton Mifflin. He is also the founder and artistic director of The American Chamber Players.

"This is a big move for my family and me because we have lived in the Washington, DC area since the late 1970s, but Converse's Petrie School of Music has always held an elevated position in my mind and heart," said Hoffman. "I first remember being so impressed with the College's Friends of the Petrie School of Music Series because it presents such an esteemed roster of performers from throughout the world each year. My first performance at Converse was with The American Chamber Players as part of the series in 1998. We returned in 2000 and again in 2002. I served as artist-in-residence for the last two years and made my debut as a conductor with the Converse Symphony Orchestra in May of 2006. Through those visits to the campus, I was able to formulate a very good idea of Converse, so when the Dean of the Petrie School position became available, my interest was immediately piqued."

Hoffman was intrigued by the idea of continuing his educational endeavors at Converse. "So much of what I've been doing for the past 25 years has revolved around educating people about music. I have traveled the country to teach, lecture and perform for organizations throughout the country and will continue to do so. But the Converse position gives me a 'home' for these types of activities."

Hoffman has led classes at colleges and universities throughout the country, including Emory, Yale, University of Kansas, University of Memphis, University of Missouri, University of Nebraska, University of Richmond, and many others. As Dean of the Petrie School of Music, he will continue his NPR commentaries and his performance career with The American Chamber Players. 📌

Converse Launches Harlaxton International Music Festival in England

In May, 22 students and faculty from Converse's Petrie School of Music left for England to take part in the three-week Harlaxton International Chamber Music Festival. This is the inaugural year of the festival, which was launched by Converse in collaboration with Samford University (Birmingham, Alabama) and the Conservatory of Puerto Rico.

The young-artist chamber groups received daily coaching from guest artist teachers from around the world, including several Converse faculty members. They performed in venues ranging from stately homes to Lincoln Cathedral and from St. Martin in the Fields (London) to Belvoir Castle (Lincolnshire). The festival concluded with a London performance and two nights in the heart of the city.

"With the transformation of the Harlaxton experience from a Converse-only concert tour into a bona fide international festival, our students have the opportunity to stretch out and encounter students and faculty from other music programs," said Dr. Scott Robbins Associate Professor of Music Theory and Composition.



"They also have the opportunity to immerse themselves into the musical culture of Europe and to see many of the great musical cities of that continent."

The Festival was held in Harlaxton Manor, an Elizabethan-style manor house that is considered to be the masterpiece of architects Anthony Salvin and William Burn and has been featured in a number of movies and documentaries including Steven Spielberg's "The Haunting." A tour journal with photos is available on the Converse website at www.converse.edu/harlaxton/journal.asp. 📌

Wikipedia Founder Speaks at Converse

Jimmy Wales, creator and co-founder of the controversial online encyclopedia Wikipedia.org, visited Converse in April to discuss the world of peer-reviewed open content Internet media and the founding of Wikipedia. The event was a joint venture between Converse and the Friends of the Spartanburg County Public Libraries' Dennis L. Bruce Author Series.

Wales met with a select group of Converse students, including those from the Nisbet Honors Program, before his public talk in Twichell Auditorium. The students engaged Wales in a spirited discussion about the merit of using Wikipedia as a resource for academic research. The controversy is a hot topic on campuses nationwide, and members of

the Converse community eagerly embraced the opportunity to go head-to-head with the website's founder. In the end, they found common ground with Wales, who asserts: "The quality of Wikipedia today compared with three years ago is a dramatic improvement. But people do need to be aware of how it is created and edited so they can treat it with the appropriate caution."

Launched in 2001, Wikipedia currently ranks among the top ten most-visited Web sites worldwide, with nearly 5 million articles in 229 language editions. In 2006, *TIME* magazine named the 40-year-old Wales as one of America's 100 most influential people. 📌



171 Degrees Conferred; Ellen Bryant Voigt '64 Delivers Commencement Address

Converse awarded 171 degrees during its 115th commencement, held May 19 in Twichell Auditorium. The College welcomed home renowned poet and Converse alumna Ellen Bryant Voigt, who gave the commencement address to the Class of 2007.

Voigt urged the graduates to "use your mind and mind your soul. You leave here with a valuable, privileged asset: a liberal arts education, which has as its goal to teach one how to think. Not how to compile 'information'—that changes faster than we can speak of it—but how to divide the spurious from the real, the false from the true, to leave nothing of your experience unexamined, none of your principles untested." (Read the full text of Voigt's address at www.converse.edu/voigt.) A native of Virginia, Voigt served as Poet Laureate of Vermont from 2000-2004 and is award-winning author of six books of poetry.

Commencement was a special day for Bianca-Martina Rohner of Kaufbeuren, Germany, who was presented with both the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award for community service and the Elford C. Morgan Award for the highest academic record in the College of Arts and Sciences at Converse. Spartanburg resident Nancy Rainey Crowley also received the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award. Crowley, a graduate of Randolph-Macon Woman's College, has been honored by numerous organizations and individuals for her extensive volunteer service. Therese Ann Akkerman of Boiling Springs, SC received the Pi Kappa Lambda Award, which is given to the senior with the highest academic record in the Petrie School of Music.

President Fleming presented flowers to Susan Phifer Johnson '65 in appreciation for her service as chairman of the Board of Trustees.



Many members of the Class of 2007 will continue their education this fall as they begin graduate studies in programs at institutions such as Yale University, Harvard University, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (at Singapore University), the University of Georgia, Clemson University and North Carolina State University. 📌

(Left to right) Bianca-Martina Rohner, Therese Ann Akkerman



Ellen Bryant Voigt '64



A Farwell to Retiring Faculty



Dr. Anthony Scavillo Associate Professor of Modern Languages

Dr. Anthony Scavillo has always been fascinated by languages. He says that during his youth in Philadelphia, PA, the only professional outlet for languages at the time was teaching. With his career path seemingly chosen for him, Dr. Scavillo embarked upon a profession distinguished by excellence and commitment to his craft.

Dr. Scavillo earned his bachelor's in French with an Italian minor from LaSalle College (Philadelphia, PA), a master's from Catholic University of America (Washington, DC) where his master's thesis was "Baudelairean Symbolism in Victor Hugo," and a doctorate from Université de Strasbourg (Strasbourg, France).

His early interests centered around nineteenth century poetry, but, in recent years, he has expanded his horizons to embrace such areas as la Francophonie and women's studies. He has traveled widely throughout Europe, and spent 11 years living and working in Strasbourg, France. In 1994, Holt, Rinehart and Winston published his second-year French reader *Plaire et Instruire*.

Dr. Scavillo joined the Converse College faculty in 1979. He has also taught at the Institute for American Universities (Avignon, France), University of Scranton, Institut Universitaire de Technologie, Université de Strasbourg, University of South Carolina Upstate, Wofford College, and Spartanburg High School.

At Converse, he served as Chair of the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department from 1994-2003. He has also provided insightful guidance as a member of numerous committees including the Faculty-Student Relations Committee, Converse Scholars Committee, Scholarship Committee, Teacher Education Admissions Committee, Educational Technology Committee, Milliken Scholarship Committee, and the Admissions Committee. He has advised the Foreign Language Club, served on the Faculty Senate, and assisted with recruiting students from Germany.

Dr. Scavillo has served the Upstate community as Area Coordinator for the National French Test, Certified Tutor in Spartanburg's AWARE (illiteracy) program, Language Judge at Clemson University's Declamation Contest, President of SALTA (Spartanburg Area Language Teachers Association), and Language Judge at Greenville School System's Language Fair and Wofford College's Language Week. He has also offered his services as a guest speaker for numerous organizations.



Merilyn Field Director of Art Therapy Program

Merilyn Field first became interested in art therapy while in college in 1992. "My major was psychology and I had a strong desire to help people," she said. "I attended a workshop given by an art therapist, and saw that it was the ideal combination of psychology and art. Helping people to express feelings, explore problems, and communicate with each other through art is perhaps the best way to describe art therapy."

Merilyn received her Bachelor of Arts degree at Converse with a major in psychology and art therapy. She also attained her Master of Arts degree in art therapy from Norwich University of Vermont. Her graduate study focused on the use of art therapy in psychiatric population. She practiced art therapy in Behavioral Health Service facilities before returning to Converse to lead the art therapy program, the only undergraduate art therapy program in the southeast.

"By design, art therapy students complete courses in studio art and psychology," she said. "Completing the art therapy degree can be complex because of all of the facets involved. Because of that, our graduates are among the most dedicated to their field."

A registered art therapist whose enthusiasm for the many facets of art therapy is evident in her work with students and community groups, Merilyn's wide range of contacts with health care professionals allowed her students the opportunity to work with such diverse populations as emotionally handicapped students, developmentally delayed students, children and adolescents at risk, Alzheimer patients, cancer survivor groups and the chronically mentally ill.

She is a member of the American Art Therapy Association, the National Coalition of Art Therapy Educators, and the President of the South Carolina Art Therapy Association.

Faculty, Staff and Student Accomplishments

Faculty

A number of faculty achievement awards were presented during the May 2007 Commencement exercises:

Dr. Siegwart Reichwald, Associate Professor of Music History, was presented with The O'Herron Award for Faculty Excellence, given annually to a faculty member who demonstrates exceptional teaching effectiveness, creativity, mentoring and advising, curriculum development, involvement in student-related activities, and achievement in research and publication.

The Kathryn Amelia Brown Award, recognizing faculty who have excelled in the classroom, was awarded to **Dr. Richard Keen**, Assistant Professor of Psychology.

Dr. Melissa A. Walker, Associate Professor of History, received the Scholarly and Creative Achievement Award.

Members of the Ideas and Culture Program Committee were recognized with the Curriculum Innovation Award. The committee was comprised of **Drs. Laura Brown, Monica McCoy, Jeff Poelvoorde, Madelyn V. Young** (Chair), **Ann Pletcher, Brant Bynum, Kevin DeLapp, Suzanne Schuweiller-Daab, Chris Vaneman** and **Douglas Jensen**.

Dr. Jeff Barker (Vice President for Academic Affairs) published a review of Lainie Freedman Ross, "Children in Medical Research: Access Versus Protection" (Oxford University Press, 2006), in *Choice*, April 2007.

Dr. David Berry (Associate Professor of Music History and Theory) was the winner of the 2007 Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Composer's Commissioning Program for South Carolina. The work commissioned, tentatively titled *Modular Concerto for Cello and Electronics*, will be premiered at the November 2007 SCMTA convention.

Mayo Mac Boggs (Professor of Art) has been invited to exhibit

his digital art in a gallery in Florence Italy this year.

Dr. Patricia Foy (Associate Professor of Music Education) has been selected by the South Carolina Arts in Basic Curriculum to serve on the South Carolina Scope and Sequence Curriculum Guide writing team.

Dr. Tom McDaniel's (Senior Vice President) essay "Rethinking Scholarly Publication for Tenure" appears in the March issue of *Academic Leader*.



Dr. Siegwart Reichwald



Dr. Richard Keen



Dr. Melissa A. Walker



Dr. Madelyn V. Young

Dr. Scott Robbins' (Associate professor of Music Theory and Composition) composition *Psychedelic Epigrams* was awarded Grand Prize in the Composers Guild 37th Annual Composition Contest in December. *3 Blues for Cello and Trumpet* has been recorded by internationally recognized trumpeter Ismel Betancor for release on Crystal Records. Dr. Robbins also received his 13th consecutive ASCAP Award.

Dr. John Theilmann (Professor of History and Politics) and **Frances Cate '04** are co-authors of "A Plague of Plagues: The Problem of Plague Diagnosis in Medieval England," published in the most recent issue of the *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*.

Dr. Melissa Walker (Associate Professor of History) has been selected as the editor of the agriculture volume of the *New Encyclopedia for Southern Culture*, an update and revision of the 1,634-page Encyclopedia of Southern Culture that was originally published in 1989.

Dr. Douglas Weeks (Babcock Professor of Piano) performed recitals in Kenya over Christmas break under the auspices of the US Embassy. He also performed benefit recitals for the Tegla Laroupe Peace Foundation in Nairobi, the Little Theater renovation in Mombasa, and SCANN, an orphanage for street children, in Nakuru. He performed for children at the International School in Nairobi and gave a three-hour masterclass for young Kenyan pianists.

Students

Brittany Jones '07 and **Stacy Thrall '07** had a paper accepted for the International Conference on Computational Science, which is being held later this year in China. Their paper, "An Efficient Algorithm and Its Parallelization for Computing Page Rank," was co-authored with Assistant Professor of Computer Science, **Dr. Jonathan Qiao**, based on work the two students did with Dr. Qiao as Nisbet Honors Program-funded research assistants.

Elise Stuck '09 presented a paper in March at the National Undergraduate Literature Conference. "Dining on the Word: the Portrayal of Scripture and Preaching as Nourishment in Religious Literature of Early Modern England," was based on research she did last summer funded by the Nisbet Honors Program.

Taylor Johnson '07 won second place in the Fifth Annual National Vocal Arts Competition for Emerging Artists held last summer in Long Beach, California. The competition, formerly known as the Leontyne Price Vocal Arts Competition, is sponsored by the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs.



Staff

The following awards were presented at the annual faculty and staff recognition event in May:

Bobbie Daniel '71 (Alumnae Information Coordinator) received the Spirit of Converse award for demonstrating outstanding commitment and contributions to the Converse community.

Paula Cash (Secretary, Department of Art & Design) and **Larry Jones** (Facilities Management) were recognized with the Quality Service to Students Award for their contributions to student retention through service, attention or acts of kindness.



Dear Fellow Alumnae

It is a great pleasure to write my first letter as your new Converse Alumnae Association president. I look forward to serving you and Converse for the next few years as an agent to connect Converse women of the past, present and future. Now, as we consider the "Forces of Change" in this issue of our magazine, come with me on a brief trip down memory lane.

Take a moment to think back to your years at Converse. What were the forces of change on campus? In the Spartanburg community? In our country? Around the world? Perhaps you were a student during World War II and found yourself picking peaches or preparing bandages for the Red Cross. You may have even worked in a role traditionally held by men at that time— a societal change brought on by necessity! Or perhaps you attended Converse during the '60s when the country was experiencing the turmoil of the conflict in Vietnam. Were you pushing your parents over the edge with your clothing and hairstyle? Did you participate in acts of civil disobedience? Or were you trying to maintain the "status quo" in turbulent times? Then there were the '70s and '80s, times of relative peace and tremendous prosperity. These decades also marked the beginning of women entering the work force en masse in all areas —traditional and especially non-traditional. By the '90s and 21st century, Converse women had established themselves as leaders in just about any career path imaginable.

Every time I receive a new Converse magazine, I am inspired when I read about the wonderful achievements our alumnae are accomplishing. Each of us was molded by our experiences while at Converse and by the forces of change prevalent during our college days. Today, whether we're single or married, volunteering or gainfully employed, we are an amazing group of smart, talented women. Let's celebrate our sisterhood of Converse alumnae and support our College in inspiring current students as they grow and change to become our future leaders.

Warmly,
Nancy Baird Cote '79

Upcoming Alumnae Events Fall 2007

- September 21-23.....Alumnae Board Meeting - Converse Campus
October 21.....Converse Family Fun Day at Riverbanks Zoo - Columbia, SC (see details below)
October 25-27.....Piedmont Carolinas Roadtrip - \$550/person (see details on next page)
November 2.....1889 Competition and Young Alumnae Event - Converse Campus
November 18.....Golden Club Luncheon - Converse Campus
November 30.....Alumnae Reception and Festival of Lessons and Carols - Converse Campus

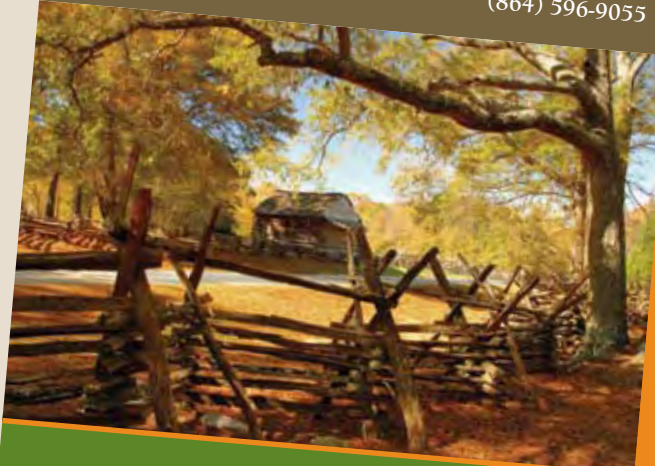
Advertisement for Riverbanks Zoo and Garden Converse Family Fun Day at the Zoo! Come join us on Sunday, October 21 for a special Converse family and friends day at the Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia, SC. Our discounted price of \$5/child (children under age 3 are free) and \$7/adult includes admission to the zoo and a Converse picnic lunch in the exclusive Ndoki Lodge in Riverbanks Zoo's African Forest. Space is limited, so contact Elizabeth Simons (864) 596-9058 or elizabeth.simons@converse.edu to reserve your spot today!

Alumnae Events Near You!

Also, watch your mail and the Web for alumnae events near you. For more information on events, contact Elizabeth Simons, associate director of alumnae at (864) 596-9058 or elizabeth.simons@converse.edu. This year we are planning to visit the following cities:

- Birmingham, AL
Atlanta, GA
Augusta, GA
Jacksonville, FL
Asheville, NC
Charlotte, NC
Gastonia, NC
Raleigh, NC
Wilmington, NC
Anderson, SC
Columbia, SC
Charleston, SC
Florence, SC
Greenville, SC
Greenwood, SC
Myrtle Beach, SC
Rock Hill, SC
Dallas, TX
Houston, TX
Richmond, VA
Norfolk, VA

Travel with Converse
Please contact the Office of Alumnae (864) 596-9055 for more information or to reserve your spot today!
Travel Contact: Jane Marion Wilson '04, Director of Alumnae
Email: jane.wilson@converse.edu
Phone: (864) 596-9055



Piedmont Carolinas Roadtrip
October 25-27, 2007
Approximately \$550 per person
Join Converse for a delightful motorcoach tour of some special places in both Carolinas, featuring town and country living, design, and style. We'll make stops in the beautiful town of Chester, the historic village of Brattonsville, Seagrove and Milton, North Carolina--the latter two renowned as historical pottery and wood-working centers. Our road trip will showcase several lovely towns, scenic countryside, behind-the-scenes tours of lovely homes and beautiful byways, excellent food and accommodations, and rich trip commentary.

Ireland ~ Ennis
July 10-18, 2008
Approximately \$1,995 per person, plus airfare and V.A.T., based on double occupancy.
Set on Europe's outskirts against the waves of the Atlantic Ocean is a rare land-the legendary Emerald Isle. Begin your exploration in Ennis, County Clare, and travel to the ancient Burren and windswept Cliffs of Moher. Visit Bunratty Castle, the most complete and authentic medieval castle in Ireland, then continue to Bunratty Folk Park, whose recreated 19th-century village provides insight into the life of bygone days. Cruise to the Aran Island of Inishmore and marvel at the cliff-side fortress of Dún Aengus. Appreciate the country's epic literary heritage at Coole Park in County Galway, with its beech tree bearing W.B. Yeats' initials and the 16th-century tower of Thoor Ballylee where he resided. Don't miss this opportunity to explore Ireland, a captivating island of legend and history, lively villages and peaceful countryside.



China and the Yangtze River Discovery
October 22-November 3, 2008
Approximately \$2,395 per person, plus airfare and V.A.T., based on double occupancy.
In Beijing, visit the ornate Forbidden City palace complex, the Temple of Heaven and the royal Summer Palace. Explore the narrow streets of the Hutongs and massive Tiananmen Square. Admire beautiful countryside from the Great Wall. Discover Xi'an, home to the Small Wild Goose Pagoda and famous Terra Cotta Warriors that guard Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi's tomb. Board the M.V. Yangtze President in Chongqing, and cruise the Yangtze River disembarking in Yichang to explore Sanyou Cave. Finally, arrive in Shanghai, and experience the Bund, the prestigious Shanghai Museum and the serene Yu Garden. An optional excursion to the lovely town of Suzhou is also available. Take advantage of the exceptional value of this unique travel opportunity!



Reunion Weekend

April 27-28, 2007

Clockwise starting from right to left:

- Alumnae Luncheon (1)
- Future Converse Alumna (2)
- Welcome Alumnae! (3)
- Model Arab League Reunion (4)
- Converse College by Jeff Willis (5)
- Golden Club (6)
- Alumnae College with Andrew Blanchard (7)
- 1957 Class Act Winners (8)
- Class of 1997 (9)
- Henry Janiec (10)
- Alumnae Luncheon (11)
- BBQ in Weisiger Center (12)
- Alumnae College with Jeff Willis (13)
- Passing of the Bell (14)



FIRST EVER
CONVERSE ATHLETICS
REUNION

Reunion Weekend
April 25-26, 2008

Mark your calendar ↗

A Thousand Thanks Gala April 25, 2007

The annual Thousand Thanks Gala is held in appreciation of donors who support Converse with gifts of \$1,000 or more.



Joe Ann Lever presents Jeanne with the DEC award



Jeanne and Bob Harley with their family at the Thousand Thanks Gala

Jeanne Smith Harley '73 Receives Converse's Highest Honor

During the Thousand Thanks Gala, Jeanne Smith Harley '73 was presented with the College's highest honor, the Dexter Edgar Converse (DEC) Award. A beloved member of the Converse family, Jeanne was lauded by Dean Emerita and Associate Professor of Biology Emerita Joe Ann Lever, the 2006 DEC award recipient and presenter of this year's award.

Jeanne has been enthusiastic about giving of her time, talents, and resources to organizations throughout her beloved hometown of Spartanburg and to her alma mater. From 1973-1979, Jeanne served Converse as Director of Alumnae. She later served as a member of the Board of Trustees from 1984-2004. Jeanne and her husband, Bob, have also been avid financial supporters of Converse, establishing the Jeanne Smith Harley Scholarship in 2001 to assist students working in Converse's Mickel Library.

In accepting her award, Jeanne expressed: "I fell in love with Converse the first day I ever put my foot on this campus. I loved it then and... I love this college more today than ever. I am so fortunate to have had the outstanding teachers and professors in receiving my education. The opportunity to serve this wonderful institution as a student and as part of the administration is greatly appreciated."



580 East Main Street
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29302
www.converse.edu

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 108
Spartanburg, SC

COMING THIS FALL...

IN A WORLD WHERE **COACHES** AND **ATHLETES DREAM BIG**,
WHERE A NEW **ATHLETIC DIRECTOR** IS BUILDING MOMENTUM,
WHERE A **NEW CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP** HEIGHTENS COMPETITION,
WHERE HOME TURF IS AN AWESOME NEW ATHLETIC FACILITY, AND WHERE TEAMS COMPETE AT
THE **HIGHEST LEVEL OF ANY WOMEN'S COLLEGE IN THE NATION**,

A NEW MASCOT IS NEEDED.

COMING THIS FALL IS A COMPETITION TO NAME THAT MASCOT.

ARE YOU GAME?

E

Rated "E" for Everyone

Look for more details coming soon via E-mail (if you do not currently receive news E-mails from Converse, send your E-mail address to bobbie.daniel@converse.edu).

