



CONVERSEBULLETIN

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Nancy Gray
with her husband, David

Dear Alumnae and Friends,

Happy Holidays! In this special season, we thank you for your support of Converse. Whether you were a donor in our recent

campaign, have given to the Converse Annual Fund this year, helped recruit a student, or have passed along good words about the College to others, we are most grateful to you. It is only through your ongoing help and support that we are able to provide quality education for young women.

This fall, we welcomed a freshman class that has 45 more students than the preceding year. This class also has the highest College Board scores in a decade, as well as a vast array of interesting high school experiences. Their desire to come

to Converse is largely due to the impact of your influence and your generosity. You have helped us to strengthen the academic program and enhance the historic beauty of this campus in order to make it more

attractive to contemporary students.

Our ongoing challenge is to build enrollment. Your referrals and good words make a difference! I hope you will remind prospective students that Converse has been cited by *U.S. News & World Report* as the second best value in the South and that generous scholarships are available for both merit and financial need. If students question a small women's college, encourage them to visit us; approximately half of our current students shared the same concern prior to their visits.

You may wonder about the relevance of women's education in today's society. As I watch the personal growth of the students enrolled at Converse, I tell you unequivocally with an enthusiastic "yes!" that this environment is as important a niche as ever in preparing women to be top leaders and contributors in our world. Daily, I see

Converse students transformed as they are empowered by their experiences here. Even though it bucks the current trend toward big, public, co-ed institutions, what we do at Converse works for today's students just as it did for you. Learning on our campus occurs twenty-four hours a day — in residence halls as well as classrooms. Knowledge and character growth are not just part of life, but a way of life.

We make a difference in students' lives, in part, because women engage in intellectual activity in small classes, without worrying about competing with men. A study completed this fall by Duke University confirms that women in coeducational classes do not speak up as much as men and they worry more about how they are perceived than about fully engaging intellectually. The same study confirms leadership roles in student government are more often held by

men, where at Converse, we develop women as leaders and equip them to deal with the myriad roles and choices they will confront following their graduations. The chance to be part of a community created for women is an opportunity that students will never again have in their lives.

You, as alumnae, demonstrate the impact Converse had in your own lives by exerting an influence beyond what could reasonably be expected, given our small numbers, in your communities and professions. Our recent graduates are in graduate schools such as Harvard Divinity School, University of Georgia, University of Virginia, Princeton Theological Seminary, Medical University of South Carolina, University of Pittsburgh, University of Indiana, New England Conservatory of Music, and others. They are working as teachers, interior designers, art therapists, lawyers, non-profit managers,

business leaders, performers, accountants, and mothers throughout the country. Help us spread the word to the next generation of students!

On a personal note, I have been consoled and encouraged by the personal interest that so many of you have taken in me and my family. We are especially grateful for your ongoing thoughts and prayers for our son Paul. He has recently been promoted to Captain, but he continues to serve in Iraq and is not scheduled home until after the first of the year. Thank you for your continued prayers and thoughts for him and for all our service men and women.

To each of you and your families, I extend the warmest holiday greetings, with best wishes for the year ahead.

Nancy Gray



Faculty, staff, and parents help the Class of 2007 move in.

MEET THE CLASS OF 2007

Converse is pleased to announce that the fall 2003 freshman class has 45 more students than last year's freshman class, thanks to a top-notch recruitment effort! Many alumnae and friends played a key role in this success, and we **THANK YOU** for your help! Every person who spreads a good word about Converse — whether casually in your daily conversations or in a more focused volunteer capacity — is making a difference.

This year's incoming class is a remarkably talented and capable group of young women who have already carved their niche and made their presence known on campus. With one of the highest average GPAs and SAT scores in the College's history, a diverse range of interests and activities, and representing 16 states and four countries, they are a perfect fit with Converse College!

PROFILE OF THE INCOMING CLASS

- 200 Students
- 7 International students representing El Salvador, Germany, and Panama
- 20 Transfer students
- 33 Music students
- 48 Nisbet Honors Program participants

Academic Credentials

- Average GPA: 3.80
- Average SAT: 1116
- Average ACT: 24

Top Academic Interests

- Education (Deaf, Elementary, Early

- Childhood, Secondary, Special)
- Music
- Art/Interior Design
- Sciences/Pre-Med (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
- Business/Accounting
- Psychology
- Undecided

Special Accomplishments and Activities

- Valedictorians: 3
- Salutatorians: 3
- Beta Club Members: 56
- Key Club: 16

- Duke TIP: 3
- Honor Roll Students: 45
- Academic Letters: 6
- National Honor Society: 65
- National Art Honor Society: 3
- National Spanish Honor Society: 5
- French National Honor Society: 2
- German Honor Society: 1
- Mu Alpha Theta: 6
- National Society of High School Scholars: 3
- Model United Nations: 4
- Student Council: 32
- Class/Club/Athletic Officers: 72
- Junior Marshal: 14

- Who's Who: 31
- Athletic Who's Who: 8
- Participated in Sports: 77
- Sports Letters: 5
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes: 24
- Junior ROTC: 10
- Yearbook/Newspaper/Literary Magazine: 41
- Yearbook/Newspaper/Literary Magazine Editors: 16
- Chorus/Band Members: 49
- Church Youth Group/Activities: 97
- Girl Scouts: 6
- Service Organization Members/Volunteers: 66



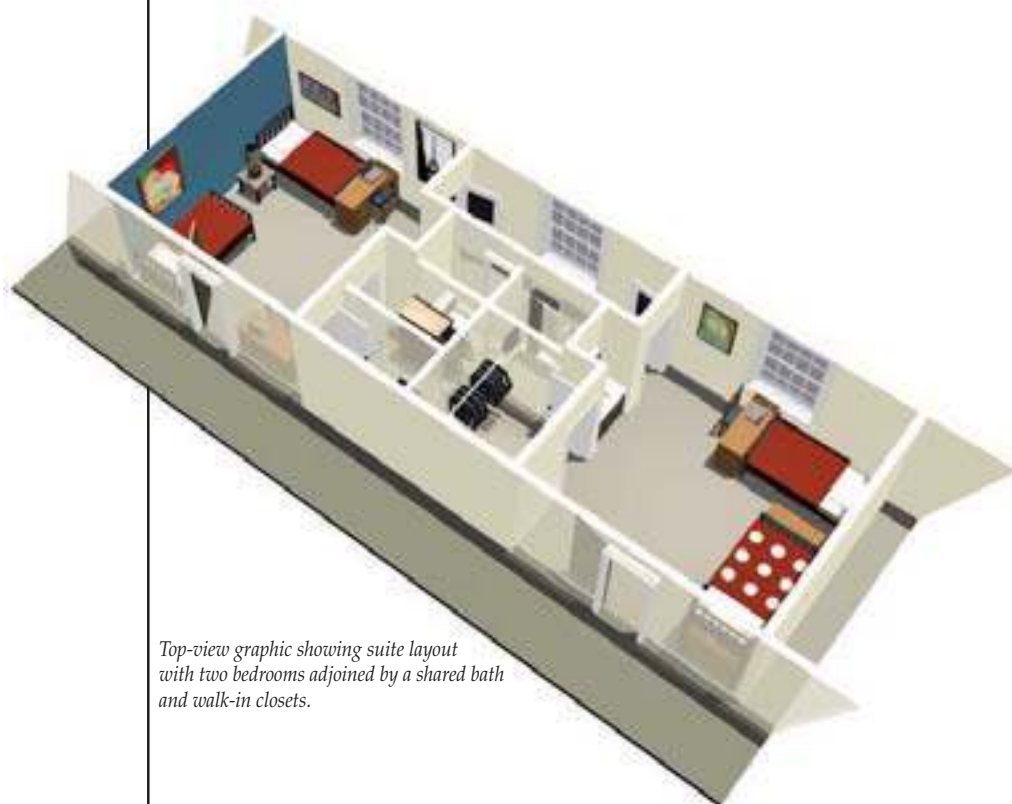
Belk Residence Hall



The new suite-style rooms



BELK RESIDENCE HALL OPENS TO UPPERCLASSMEN



Top-view graphic showing suite layout with two bedrooms adjoined by a shared bath and walk-in closets.

The redesigned lobby



Construction is complete and students are enjoying the newly renovated suite-style living in Belk Residence Hall. This fall, upperclassmen moved into the hall after it had been closed for a year for construction. Just before the students arrived, Debbie Christiansen Anderson, Susan Hull Dickerson, and Jane Boatwright Schwab of the Class of 1977 spent a day on campus to lend their professional interior design expertise in redesigning Belk lobby. Members of the Class of 1977 raised \$22,000 for the effort, which was completed in memory of two of their classmates, Becky Gilbert Chancellor and Deborah Burt John, who have passed away since graduation.

PHIFER SCIENCE HALL IS COMING!!



Converse is making great progress on the construction of Phifer Science Hall, the future home of the biology and chemistry departments. The facility is scheduled to open for fall 2004.

To view construction via the live web cam, visit the Converse Web site (www.converse.edu) and click the "Construction at Converse" feature button on the homepage.



MARCH 10, 2003



MAY 8, 2003



SEPTEMBER 4, 2003



JULY 30, 2003



NOVEMBER 7, 2003

My Life in Lesotho: THE MOUNTAIN KINGDOM

By Wendy Jolley-Kabi '91

In late October, Converse alumna Wendy Jolley-Kabi '91 returned to the U.S. following nearly eight years in Lesotho, Southern Africa, as a Peace Corps Volunteer. Initially, her responsibilities centered upon supporting the primary community needs of the people in the villages of Lesotho. However, she soon became the “go-to person” for the Lesotho Save the Children program, spending hours with sick children in a hospital, meeting with government officials to advocate for improvements in services for children, writing funding proposals to secure finances for the program, coordinating international volunteer work teams, and serving on-call around the clock for emergencies.

Below is her story written for the Bulletin just before she left Lesotho to return to the U.S.

Personal change is generally a difficult thing to quantify. Perhaps being in a new country and dealing with a new language, culture, social norms, and problems has made it easier to feel and see my change and growth. I have kept a journal continuously since I arrived in Lesotho and have dealt with situations I never imagined possible - ranging from the absurd to the unspeakable. While I consider myself about as anti-war as a person can be, I do understand the old adage, “the army made a man of him.” Perhaps I can simply say that my time in Lesotho has made a human of me. Lesotho has an HIV prevalence rate of 32%; drought and famine are common visitors; and poverty is so extreme that people literally starve to death. Lesotho has been my home for almost eight years, a place full of people whom I love. It has also destroyed pieces of me; it has pushed me to question my beliefs and values; and it has



given me the ability to accept grace and forgiveness. It has also made me more and more aware of the brotherhood and sisterhood of all peoples, and of my own fears and resistance to fully participate in that fellowship.

Since I met missionaries from Africa when I was six years old, I dreamt of living there one day. At Converse, I majored in politics and religion—two disciplines that fascinated me and seemed to intertwine with amazing frequency, from the Church in the Middle Ages to the modern-day Middle East conflict. Fortunately, several of my professors, including Rev. Susie Brannon Smith and Dr. Joe Dunn, encouraged wider approaches to their individual disciplines and fostered within me a hunger to know more about our communities (both political and religious), and the connections and cross-references that exist therein.

After graduating in 1991, I left for Washington, DC, to help homeless people and people with developmental disabilities (many of whom were also homeless). Much of this time was spent with alternative expressions of “church” as people who shared a similar (or sometimes not) faith would join together to feed or clothe or simply befriend their neighbors in need. After five years, the pull to Africa got stronger and stronger, and I knew that the basic goodness of sharing life with a neighbor could extend even to neighbors who spoke a different language, ate different foods, and lived 8,000 miles from my hometown.

I first arrived in Lesotho in May 1996 as a Peace Corps Volunteer. I served as a Rural Community Development Specialist for 16 remote villages in the southern part of the country. My day began around



(Clockwise from top) Four herdboys in the Mokhotlong District of Lesotho greet passersby. Boys as young as four years of age live far away from their families to tend to herds of animals in the mountains for months at a time; Wendy cuddles a young girl; five toddlers at MCV play with toys; Likeleli Ntsane of Maqoala keeps warm in her winter blanket which is worn as a coat.



(Opposite page) Wendy and her adopted sons visit Thapelo and Mathatang Jofeta in Wendy's home village, Maqoala. The hats and other crafts are made by the Jofeta family.





(Clockwise from top) Wendy plays with pre-school children at MCV; Wendy with children in her village; Wendy joins village women as they dance in her yard; an older girl pulls a young boy in a box — what a fun toy!

(Opposite page) Wendy's adopted sons, Thabiso and Mandela

4:30 am when the sun rose and the village women gathered at the water pump near my hut to collect water and chat about their lives. As would other women in the village, I would sweep my mud floor and collect water. I would then walk for up to two hours to each village—some days managing to visit just two. Once there, I would join a village group in building an access road or digging latrines for the primary school; constructing village water systems and a community church; improving nutrition and basic health skills; learning eco-friendly agricultural methods; and creating educational resources for five pre-schools and three schools for herd boys. Each village had prioritized their own needs, and my role was to assist folks in organizing or accessing information and in developing systems to record and manage the process.

In January 1999, I moved to Maseru, the capitol of Lesotho, and began working with Lesotho Save the Children (LSC), a local non-governmental organization associated with the United Nations. The mission of LSC is to work for positive change in the lives of the most vulnerable children in the country. Lesotho has a population of 2.2 million, 52% of which are under the age of 18. The country also has the second highest official HIV prevalence rate in the world. Various studies and censuses estimate that between 75,000 and 130,000 children have been orphaned. Many of these children survive on their own without any adult support, creating a whole new term: “Child-Headed Households.”

My original duties with LSC were to serve as manager of a temporary shelter for children who have been abused, abandoned, and neglected. Some of the children were abandoned at birth when they tested HIV-positive; others were orphaned when parents died of HIV-related or other illnesses. Some children had been removed from their homes after being physically or sexually abused, and others were placed at the shelter temporarily while their parents were in the hospital or prison. While at the shelter, the children receive nutritious meals, medical care, an education, clothing, and a safe home. The project averages 35 children in residence and works with over 75 children each year.

I later assumed the role of program manager for LSC, which involved overseeing all the organization’s projects in addition to managing the shelter. During this time, there was no typical day for me: I could be found with a sick child in a hospital hoping to get quality treatment; meeting with government officials to advocate for improvements in services for children;

writing funding proposals or meeting with prospective donors in order to meet the financial needs of the shelter; coordinating international or local volunteer work teams who visit the shelter to help paint a building or dig more garden plots. As shelter manager, I was on-call 24-hours-per-day for emergencies. There were some nights when I held babies or children as they died. But each day was touched with joy as I was hugged every morning by a gaggle of toddlers who waited for me to arrive in the office, and I often witnessed children reunited with extended relatives or placed in a loving adoptive family.



During my tenure with LSC, I wanted to do all that I could to influence national policy and law in relation to vulnerable and orphaned children. To that end, I was involved in the development of a national HIV/AIDS policy, the national Social Welfare Policy, the draft Child Protection Bill, the country’s first Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, the national complementary report to the United Nations on the domestic implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Children in Lesotho, the establishment of an active non-governmental organization coalition on the rights of the child, and the successful procurement of a grant from the Commonwealth Education Fund to develop civil society involvement in monitoring education in the country.

So who are the people of Lesotho? They are mothers afraid that their unborn children will not live to be adults. They are 8-year-olds taking care of their younger siblings because both parents have died. They are youth praying for a job in a country with an unemployment rate of over 40%. They are grandmothers raising more children than they can feed. But they are also a people who have invited me into their families to share a meal. They are young women who helped pay for my son’s operation. They are co-workers who stood in as my family during my traditional wedding ceremony. They are strangers who loaned me a blanket while I was travelling or gave me a lift to town. They are a chief who wanted to send a sheep to my father as a token of his gratitude for my father’s willingness to allow his daughter to come so far from home to live and work with people my family had never met. The people of Lesotho—like their brothers and sisters around the globe—are a people who often face incomprehensible odds, yet go on about the daily tasks of living: hoeing the fields, collecting the water, caring for their nieces and nephews, and, by the grace of God, making ends meet. ■

FORGING MY OWN PATH

by Sarah Jordan Taylor Cain '04



Top Row (l to r): Jordan Cain in front of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. In the summer of 2003, Jordan interned with the Smithsonian Institute. She is pictured here (4th from the left on the 2nd row) with her workmates. Archery instruction was among Jordan's responsibilities during her working vacation at Hidden Creek Ranch in Harrison, Idaho. Bottom Row (l to r): A day trip to Assisi, Italy. An overview of Hidden Creek Ranch where Jordan worked in 2002. During her trip to Italy, Jordan pauses on the bridge over the Arno River.

“It’s life, Sidda. You just climb on the beast and ride it!” In my mind, “Sidda” is replaced with “Sarah,” and it was my mom, not Vivi from *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*, who spoke it. This quotation, along with lessons I have discovered through my travels, enforces the message that to make myself happy, I must be an active participant in my life. It sounds like common sense, yet it is rare that I observe others seeking experiences that will foster their confidence and growth.

Through extraordinary summer jobs and navigating around foreign cities with alien languages, I have realized the magnitude of forging my unique path. Leading scenic hikes through the woods of Idaho to earn summer cash replaced selling and folding clothes in a locally owned retail shop. Riding the Yellow Line Metro into our nation’s capital for a day of work replaced driving to the downtown YMCA to sit and lifeguard. Two winter semesters spent behind a small desk were substituted with tours of Versailles and quiet, reflective moments gazing at Michelangelo’s “Last Judgment.” These events, which I was fortunate to experience, have inspired me to continue exploring my interests and using them to make contributions to others’ rides on the “beast.”

As a confused and ambivalent rising college sophomore running out of general education requirement classes, I signed up for Accounting Principles. I did not take this class because I envisioned myself acquiring a degree in the field, or even because I thought I might like it. I thought accounting and anyone who did it were terribly dull; however, my wise advisor suggested I take it. She argued that, after all, it is a pre-requisite for the “fun” business classes. “Dull” is an adjective that has yet to cross the lips of anyone describing me, but oddly, I found I enjoyed the class thoroughly! After coming to terms with this realization, I decided to allow myself to indulge in this newfound affection for numbers and declare a major in the subject. With their heads lowered, eyebrows scrunched, and

overall uneasy looks, numerous friends and family members have posed the question, “So, you want to be an accountant?” My answer confuses them even more. I cannot picture myself being an accountant. I am very fond of the subject and believe the knowledge will be helpful someday, no matter what I decide to do.

Idaho

“Are ya gonna pick potatoes?” That was the number one question I was asked after my announcement at the end of my sophomore year that I was not going to work in retail for yet another summer, but instead fly across the country to work in Idaho. “Are you gonna be a cowgirl?” was the second most popular question, and asked after I explained I was going not for the purpose

“Dull” is an adjective that has yet to cross the lips of anyone describing me.

of gathering large sacks of potatoes, but to work on a guest ranch. No family, no friends, no Isle of Palms, and no Beacon sweet tea for two thousand, five hundred, and two miles! Let me also mention that I did not have access to a cell phone, personal car, or the Internet for three months. Was I crazy? Some people thought so, including me, when I first got there and realized what exactly I had gotten myself into. “Cowgirl” status was never really achieved but housekeeper, server, line dance instructor, and hike leader definitely were achieved.

France

“How hard would it be to find a job here?” I asked myself as I wandered the streets of Nice in Southern France, during winter term of my sophomore year. Within ten

minutes of my arrival, I decided my destiny was to live in a lovely—I could even handle not so lovely—home on the mountain adjacent to the Mediterranean Sea. Rocks collected from the shoreline decorated my humble Converse College dorm room and acted as a reminder of a beloved fragment of a four-week excursion through France. Fast-forward a year to winter term of my junior year, and I could be found collecting pieces of pottery washed ashore on the coast of Positano, after eating in a little café and finding the Italian man of my dreams. This four-week holiday whizzed by and will forever permeate my mind with memories of Roman ruins, the Medici family’s wealth, Michelangelo’s unsurpassed talent, and the most vivacious people with whom I have been acquainted. My return home obligated me to listen to stories told by friends of what I had missed at Converse, while I was exploring another world. The pinnacle of such stories left me heavy-eyed and unimpressed. It was fathomless to me how satisfied others appeared to be with following the typical blueprint of a college existence.

Washington

At the end of my junior year, after weeks of continuous investigations, I secured an accounting intern position at the esteemed Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. The Smithsonian is known for its investigative studies and scholarly work in areas such as astronomy, astrophysics, cultural and biological diversity, the global environment, human ecology, space science, art history, humanities, arts, and social sciences! Government agencies, private foundations, corporations, and other organizations provide the foundation on which Smithsonian activities are built. I worked in the office that assists in the acquisition and use of grant and contract funding for these projects. The opportunity to work for such a highly regarded institution in an office within walking distance of the White House, the U.S. Capitol, and the Washington Monument has inspired me to climb and ride the “beast” on a regular basis. 📌

THE RISING COST OF EDUCATION: ARE YOU PREPARED?

College admission has changed significantly since most Converse alumnae were in school. Today, due to a precedent that has been set by the colleges who are competing for their business, students, and parents expect scholarships and financial aid to cover the majority of college expenses. At Converse, a student who pays the full price of tuition still pays only 60% of Converse’s total cost to educate her. The balance of this cost is funded primarily by the Converse Annual Fund and the endowment. Considering that more than 90% of Converse students receive some combination of financial assistance, it becomes evident that the Converse Annual Fund

and the endowment are critical to subsidize not only the operational cost of education, but also the cost of providing merit- and need-based scholarships.

CONVERSE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SCHOLARSHIP TYPE	QUALIFICATIONS	RANGE
Academic Scholarships	Requires minimum 3.5 GPA and 1100 SAT (24ACT). Students must be nominated by a guidance counselor or a member of the Converse community to attend the Milliken Scholarship Competition on January 24, 2004.	Up to full comprehensive fee
Leadership Scholarships	Requires minimum 3.0 GPA and 1000 SAT (21 ACT) and have demonstrated leadership potential. Students must be nominated by a guidance counselor or a member of the Converse community to attend the Converse College Excellence in Leadership Competition on January 24, 2004.	Up to \$9,000
Petrie School of Music Scholarships	Requires major in Music. Students must attend an audition on one of the following dates: January 23, February 23, March 13.	Up to full comprehensive fee
Visual Arts Scholarships	Requires major in studio art, interior design, art history, art education, or art therapy. Interested students should contact the Art Department at 864-596-9606 to request an application form and portfolio requirements, and a list of portfolio review days.	Up to \$1,500
Hayward Ellis Theatre Scholarships	Requires major in Theatre. Students must attend the Ellis Scholarship Competition and audition on January 24, 2004.	Up to \$1,500
Athletic Scholarships Basketball, Cross Country, Soccer, Tennis, Volleyball	Requires eligibility for NCAA participation. Interested students should contact the coach of their individual sport or the Athletics Department at 864-577-2050 or 800-766-1125.	Up to full comprehensive fee
Transfer Scholarships	Requires minimum 3.0 cumulative collegiate GPA and 30 or more transferable credit hours.	Up to \$8,000
International Scholarships	Based on a review of the students’ high school record, extra curricular activities, and TOEFL scores, merit-based scholarships will be awarded. Those interested in international scholarships must submit a Declaration of Finance along with an application for admission by April 1, 2004.	Varies based on student credentials



THERE IS GOOD NEWS!

Converse was ranked the #2 Best Value in the South by *U.S. News & World Report* in their 2004 rankings. Although Converse tuition is higher than most public schools, it is lower than many of our private competitors. Weigh in the availability of substantial scholarships and financial aid, and you find that Converse is able to create a very level playing field. What’s more, the fact that full-time Converse students consistently graduate within only four years and benefit from a quality Converse education make the best value label even more compelling.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TODAY?

Prepare for children’s education by starting a college savings plan. See the facing page for information about a new plan in which Converse is participating that allows you to purchase future private education at a reduced rate from even today’s tuition. Also, see information on this page about merit scholarships that are available at Converse. Additional aid is available based on financial need. Share this information with your friends and family, and also with prospective students and their parents. For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at 800-766-1125 or admissions@converse.edu.



Their potential
has no limit.
Their tuition does.



Saving for private college is a great challenge for many families today. But now there’s an easier way to fund your child’s education.

Introducing Independent 529 Plan, sponsored by over 200 of the nation’s top private colleges including Converse College. This unique savings program lets you prepay future college tuition at a price less than you would pay today. And that’s regardless of how much the cost has risen by the time your child becomes a freshman. What’s more, the Plan has all the significant federal tax benefits of other 529 plans.

So call to find out more. We think you’ll find there’s no better way than Independent 529 Plan to assure a first-class education for your child—and a lot less worry for you.

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...the College of Choice for Women

Berry Bate '75 Sculpture Tops Extended Stay Fountain



Berry Bate in front of her new sculpture

Edited from an article written by Gary Henderson for the Spartanburg Herald-Journal

An 8-foot-tall copper palmetto tree sculpture by Berry Bate '75 now tops the fountain outside Extended Stay America's new headquarters in downtown Spartanburg. "I'm so happy I am able to give this to the people of South Carolina, especially to Spartanburg," said Berry. "Converse gave me so much. It's good to give something back to the city. Being a Converse girl, you learn to love Spartanburg."

George Dean Johnson, Extended Stay CEO and former chairman of the Converse board of trustees, commissioned Bate to do the sculpture. Finishing this fountain completes Extended Stay's yearlong building process at its new headquarters. The company moved to Spartanburg from Fort Lauderdale, Fla. "We hired Berry Bate because she is a Converse graduate," Johnson said. "We have admired her work at several places."

Bate is the chief ironwork sculptor for Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC. Evidence of the work she's done for the Historic Charleston Foundation can be seen in restoration projects at Nathaniel Russell House and Market Hall in the coastal city.

"We're very excited for Berry, and very

proud," said Melissa Jolly '69, Director of Alumnae. "One of the things I find interesting is that Berry was actually a music major at Converse rather than an art major."

Berry's parents, Barbara and Glen Peterson, drove from Hartwell, Georgia to see their daughter's latest work put in place. Peterson, a retired schoolteacher from Bronxville, NY, said she's proud of her daughter. While she waited for Bate and her workers to arrive from North Carolina, Peterson passed out bottled water, iced tea

and cookies to construction crews who sought the shade of nearby trees to escape the 90-degree heat.

"I'm pleased (the sculpture) is in Spartanburg since she graduated from Converse," Peterson said. "Berry feels like she was meant to be doing this. She feels her creations are from God."

In addition to the palmetto tree, two pieces of Berry's work are also displayed on the Converse campus. A magnolia sculpture, donated by Mary Frances Morgan '43 in honor of her mother, Kathleen Connor Morgan '19, greets visitors at the entrance of Blackman Music Hall. In the Gwathmey Garden is a miniature sculpture of the Converse tower, which Berry created in honor of the retirement of Mary Lib Spillers Hamilton '57 as Director of Alumnae.

Converse Presents Honorary Degree to Dr. Robert Blocker, Dean of the Yale School of Music

During Opening Convocation ceremonies on September 16, Dr. Robert L. Blocker was presented with the honorary doctor of music degree. Currently serving as the Lucy and Henry Moses Dean of Music at the Yale School of Music, Dr. Blocker is acknowledged as one of the nation's leading arts administrators.

"Dr. Blocker is among those rare individuals who inspire great music and find those who can create the best in music," said Joseph Hopkins, Dean of the Petrie School of Music. "I first met him in 1988 when my wife and I auditioned for the graduate studies. Since that time we have watched his career develop into a position of national and international stature. His résumé needs no illumination. He is a chosen, elected, and respected leader in the academic community of music. He represents his home state of South Carolina with dignity and devotion."

Dr. Blocker holds a bachelor's degree from Furman University (Greenville, SC), and master of music and doctor of musical arts degrees from the University of North Texas where he studied under the tutelage of Richard Chess. A pianist, Dr. Blocker has performed concerts and presented masterclasses throughout the United States, Europe, China, the Pacific Rim, Canada, and Mexico. His memberships and appointments include service as Chair

of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Precollegiate Art Schools, music panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, member of the Commission on Accreditation of the National Association of Schools of Music, Chair of the Board of Visitors of the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, and past president of the national music honor society Pi Kappa Lambda.

Among his many awards is South Carolina's Order of the Palmetto, the highest honor given to a civilian by the State.



Converse Premieres Work of Nationally Acclaimed Artist



"Women of Color" by Johnnie Lee Gray

Milliken Art Gallery exhibited 22 original paintings by Johnnie Lee Gray during September and October, opening with a reception attended by approximately 175 guests. Shirley Gray, Johnnie's widow, also gave a presentation on opening night entitled "Rising Above Jim Crow." News outlets from throughout the state provided coverage of the exhibit.

Much of Gray's work is the subject of a current nationwide touring exhibit sponsored by the New York Life Insurance Company, and has been shown at the Russell Rotunda in Washington, DC; Forbes Galleries in New York City; Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York City; the Chicago Historical Society; and the Atlanta History Center. However, Shirley Gray provided works for the Converse exhibition that had never

before been publicly displayed.

Born in Spartanburg in 1941, Gray was a self-taught painter. The majority of his work centers upon life in the African-American community during the Jim Crow era. Gray was largely ignored by the public and critics alike until 2002—two years after his death—when members of the New York Life Insurance Company discovered his work.

Gray's paintings convey the experiences of his life as an African-American living in the South from the 1950s to the end of the century. The South that Gray knew as a boy was segregated in practically every way—from schools and churches to businesses and recreation.

Gray's work is full of color, composition, and social significance. The mediums that he used are equally impressive. "Johnnie would often collect discarded pieces of plywood to use as a canvas," says Shirley. "For his paint, he often used a mixture of local clay with oils and leftover paints he found at work sites."

Gray spent his life in Spartanburg working as a builder and carpenter. Although he was untrained as an artist, painting played a large role in his life. "Johnnie always painted," reflects Shirley. "There were many times when his family could not afford to buy gifts for him, so he would paint whatever item he wanted and consider it his."

CLUBEVENTS

Converse Canadian Rockies Trip, Banff Springs Hotel July 5, 2003

Front row (l to r): Carolyn Duer Pennell '50, Margaret Shore Roark '69, Tracy Hannah, Dot Ormond Grier '50, Nelly Zimmerli; Back row: Bill Hambrick, Mary Lib Spillers Hamilton '57, Dennis Roark, Tom Grier, Jack Cobb, Melissa Daves Jolly '69, Tom Hannah, and Kurt Zimmerli



CLUBEVENTS

Converse Alumnae in Rhonda, Spain Summer 2003

(l to r) Debbie Christiansen Anderson '77, Carole Cole '70, Gay Simmons Colyer '73, "Sister" Ruth Powell Seitz '80, and Val Powell Cranford '79



Voigt Returns to Converse for Reading



Converse alumna Ellen Bryant Voigt '64, recent Poet Laureate for the state of Vermont and author of six books of poetry, returned to her alma mater to give a public reading on October 8. An overflow crowd exceeding 130 packed the Cleveland Hall Alumnae House for the event.

Ellen's visit to Converse was funded through the Elizabeth Boatwright Coker Visiting Writers Series, a program that brings award-winning writers and scholars from a variety of genres to the Converse campus each year to give free public readings and interact with students of literature and creative writing.

Voigt is author of *Claiming Kin* (Wesleyan University Press), *The Forces of Plenty* (Carnegie Mellon Press), *The Lotus Flowers* (Carnegie Mellon Press), *Two Trees* (W.W. Norton), *Kyrie* (W.W. Norton and a National Book Critics' Circle Award Finalist), and *Shadow of Heaven* (W.W. Norton and a National Book Award Finalist). She is also author of *The Flexible Lyric* (University of Georgia Press), a collection of essays. During her visit to Spartanburg, she read from *Shadow of Heaven*.

Voigt has also received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund. In 2002, the Academy of American Poets named her the recipient of the 67th Academy of American Poets Merrill Fellowship.

Money and Movies

By Lisa Medley, Converse Communications intern and Converse II student

Through a somewhat unconventional interdisciplinary course offering, Nisbet Honors students at Converse are learning basic theory and principles of cinema and economics. The course, called *Money and Movies*, is taught by Dr. Karen Carmean, Charles A. Dana Professor of English, and Dr. Madelyn Young, Associate Professor and Chair of the Economics, Accounting, Business, and Sociology Department.

Money and Movies is designed to focus on the economics of the film industry and issues such as poverty, unemployment, crime, discrimination, big business, war, and the environment. Students learn how to evaluate economic systems, and make the principles applicable to society through the study of films and its language. They watch and discuss the economic implications of films such as "Traffic," "Singin' in the Rain," "Modern Times," "Wall Street," "A Civil Action," "Jerry Maguire," and "The Insider."

"I want students to know and understand how economics is relevant in everyday

life," said Dr. Young, who has taught economics at Converse since 1991. "In *Money and Movies*, we study the economics of crime, big business, and sports. We answer questions like 'why do athletes get paid so much?' This course is a broader view of economics; it develops awareness and offers students something fun and out of the ordinary."

"For my part, I want students to become media savvy," said Dr. Carmean. "Media studies are often ignored in a media-mad country; and as consumers, we're often unaware of just how manipulated we are by very sophisticated entertainment businesses. Film is quite seductive, often culturally influential, and completely unconscious for millions of viewers."

In keeping with the purpose of the Nisbet Honors program, *Money and Movies* is designed for academically gifted students and places emphasis on interdisciplinary learning. The sometimes quirky and informative combinations of classes challenge Honors students. "I've satisfied all my Honors requirements, but I'm taking *Money and Movies* because I enjoy Honors classes... they're fun," said Natalie Atkins '04, who is majoring in English. "Because it's an Honors class, it's also challenging, and the professors expect your best."

Dr. Madelyn Young and Dr. Karen Carmean with their Money and Movies class.



CLUBEVENTS

Lake Summit, NC
July 11, 2003

Harriet Messer Goldsmith '69 hosted a luncheon at her home. Front row (l to r): Sister Wannamaker Still '59, Betsy Stephens Williams '46, President Nancy Gray, Betty James Montgomery '72, Margaret Dobson Jones '69; Back row: Corinthia Brewton King '71, Jane Webber Smith '74, Harriet Messer Goldsmith '69, Valerie Barnett, Lesesne Smith Dickson '67, June McIntosh Uhler '64, Catherine Hamrick Beattie '45, Mary Easterby Satterfield '58, Melissa Daves Jolly '69, Julia Henderson Oates '57, and Polly Hill Woodham '51



Converse BULLETIN Readership Survey

Please take a few moments to tell us what you like about the Converse Bulletin and what you are interested in reading. Your feedback is important and will help us to enhance future issues. This publication is for you—our alumnae, parents, and friends!

1. How often do you read the *Bulletin*?
☐ Every issue ☐ Two issues per year ☐ One issue per year ☐ Never

2. How long do you keep copies of the *Bulletin* in your home?
☐ One month or less ☐ One to three months ☐ Three to six months ☐ More than six months

3. What is your overall rating of the *Bulletin*?
☐ Excellent ☐ Above Average ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

4. To what extent do you agree with the following statements (1=strongly agree, 5=strongly disagree):

The <i>Bulletin</i> is a useful source of information about Converse.	1	2	3	4	5
The articles are interesting.	1	2	3	4	5
The articles are well written.	1	2	3	4	5
The information is timely.	1	2	3	4	5
The coverd are appealing.	1	2	3	4	5
The <i>Bulletin</i> is well designed.	1	2	3	4	5

5. Which sections of the *Bulletin* do you regularly read? Please indicate suggestions for making each section more appealing.

Feature articles:	always	usually	sometimes	never
Suggestions: _____				
Campus News:	always	usually	sometimes	never
Suggestions: _____				
From the President:	always	usually	sometimes	never
Suggestions: _____				
Alumnae News:	always	usually	sometimes	never
Suggestions: _____				
Class Notes:	always	usually	sometimes	never
Suggestions: _____				

6. Please indicate your level of interest in reading the following types of stories (1=very interested, 5=not interested):

Campus News:	1	2	3	4	5
Alumnae News/Events:	1	2	3	4	5
Alumnae Features:	1	2	3	4	5
Student Features:	1	2	3	4	5
Faculty Features:	1	2	3	4	5
Development News (scholarships, fundraising):	1	2	3	4	5

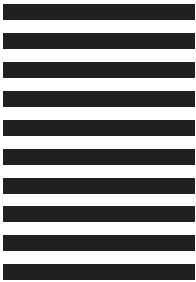
7. What do you like best and least about the *Bulletin*?
Best: _____
Least: _____

Thank you for your feedback!

Please secure with tape.



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#	Description	Colors ◀ CIRCLE ONE ▶	Size	Quant.	Price	Item Total
1	Tote Bag	NA	NA		\$ 16.00	\$
2	Tank Top	White-Gray	S-M-L-XL		\$ 18.00	\$
3	Baseball Hat	White-Khaki-Navy	One Size		\$ 18.00	\$
4	Teddy Bear	Brown	NA		\$ 14.00	\$
5	Tee Shirt	Purple-White	S-M-L-XL		\$ 12.00	\$
6	Visor	White-Khaki	One Size		\$ 16.00	\$
7	Fitted Tee Shirt	White-Gray	S-M-L-XL		\$ 18.00	\$
8	Fleece Vest	Red-Gray-Khaki-Blue	S-M-L-XL		\$ 32.00	\$
9	Coffee Mug	White	NA		\$ 6.95	\$
10	Wallet/Keychain	Black-Tan-Burgundy	NA		\$ 20.00	\$
11	Oval Charm	Silver	NA		\$ 35.00	\$
12	Square Charm	Silver	NA		\$ 28.00	\$
13	Chair	NA	NA		\$ 329.00	\$
14	Lamp	NA	NA		\$ 329.00	\$
15	Clock	NA	NA		\$ 79.99	\$
16	Afghan	NA	NA		\$ 42.00	\$
17	Glass Mug	NA	NA		\$ 8.95	\$
18	Hooded Sweatshirt	Gray	S-M-L-XL		\$ 45.00	\$
19	Golf Shirt #1	Khaki-White	S-M-L-XL		\$ 36.00	\$
20	Golf Shirt #2	Purple	S-M-L-XL		\$ 36.00	\$
21	Zip-Up Sweatshirt	Gray	S-M-L-XL		\$ 36.00	\$
Total					Sub-Total	\$
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\$50.01-\$100.00						\$
\$100.01+						\$
Chair/Lamp					Shipping & Handling	\$
					GRAND TOTAL	\$

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OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

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Vice President of Enrollment
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susan.ikerd@converse.edu
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YOU Hold the Key...

Converse Alumnae Recruitment Effort

Although prospective students discover Converse through a number of ways, there is one very special way that exponentially increases their chances of giving Converse serious consideration: through YOU! As a Converse alumna, you have the ability to help students discover Converse in the most effective manner of all - by telling them about Converse firsthand. In fact, because you know what the Converse experience is all about and appreciate the quality of a Converse education, you are best able to relate to a prospective student as you share a first-hand account of your Converse experience.

Here are a few specific ways you can help introduce prospective students to Converse:

- pass along the Converse Fact Sheet (found on the facing page)
- encourage teenage girls-whether they are family, friends, or even someone you meet briefly by chance -to consider Converse
- direct a student to the Converse Web site (www.converse.edu) where they can take a virtual tour of the campus and learn more about life here
- help a student arrange for a personal campus visit with the admissions office
- give a fee-waived application to a student
- help arrange or host a prospective student party with an admissions counselor in your home
- make a phone call, meet with, or write a letter to parents of a prospective student
- become an admission counselor for a day or night by representing Converse at a college fair in your area
- take Converse materials to high school guidance/college counselor in your area
- contact local girls' organizations such as your local Girl Scout Council.

In your conversations with prospective students, you will probably find that different students place importance on different things: from the type of education and student-to-teacher ratio, to facilities and friendliness of the community. The Converse Web site is an excellent resource for providing answers to the majority of questions you're likely to be asked.

To learn more about the active role you can play in connecting students with Converse, please contact an admissions counselor (see list at left), or the Office of Admissions by calling 1-800-766-1125 or by sending an E-mail to admissions@converse.edu.

ALUMNAE MADE A DIFFERENCE FOR THE 2003 INCOMING CLASS!

TOTAL ALUMNAE REFERRALS 193

Alumnae Referral Applicants	41	Alumnae Referral Enrollment	19
Legacy Applicants	52	Legacy Enrollment	26

In addition, 218 prospective students have already been referred for next year's incoming class, 116 for fall 2005, and 59 for fall 2006!

CONVERSE COLLEGE Fact Sheet

- ▮ In July 2003 Converse announced the successful completion of **The Campaign for Converse: Building for the Future**, with a total raised of **\$82.5 million**. The original campaign goal was \$75 million. The campaign supports Converse's strategic planning efforts and campus master plan, which includes \$27 million in capital improvements and building the endowment in support of academic excellence.

- ▮ **Phifer Science Hall** is under construction and scheduled to open for fall 2004. Phifer will house the departments of biology and chemistry and be designed for student/faculty research, interdisciplinary teaching, and in-lab lectures.



- ▮ This year's entering class has an average **GPA of 3.8** and an average **SAT of 1116**. The class hails from 16 states and 3 foreign countries, and their top academic interests include education, music, art/interior design, sciences/pre-med, business/accounting, and psychology.

- ▮ New academic offerings for fall 2003 include a bachelor of fine arts degree in **creative and professional writing**, which is the only program of its kind in the state; an **individualized major**, which allows students to customize their education to fit their career goals and interests; and a **minor in dance**.

- ▮ **The Petrie School of Music** aims to become the **30th All Steinway School** in the world, joining the likes of The Juilliard School, Yale, and Oberlin Conservatory. Steinway status will be achieved when 90% of the Petrie School's pianos are Steinways. Currently, 80% are Steinways.

- ▮ Converse was ranked 15th in the Southern Universities-Masters category and as the #2 Best Value in the South in the *U.S. News & World Report* 2004 rankings. Converse is also featured in the book, *The Best 201 Colleges in the Real World*.

- ▮ In early November, the **Converse Model League of Arab States** delegation took top honors against Ivy League powerhouses Harvard, Cornell, Dartmouth, and Tufts at the Northeast Regional Competition in Boston. For seven straight years, the Converse team has been named **Outstanding Delegation** at the national competition in Washington, DC.

AMONG CONVERSE ALUMNAE ARE:

- ▮ The Director of Daytime Programming at NBC - Class of 1964
- ▮ The first female Circuit Court Judge in South Carolina - Class of 1972
- ▮ An attorney for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Class of 1982
- ▮ A Texas Supreme Court Justice - Class of 1978
- ▮ A Broadway Performance Artist - Class of 1988
- ▮ An interventional radiologist - Class of 1988
- ▮ A Fulbright Scholar - Class of 1991
- ▮ A U.S. Air Force captain serving as an analyst for military operation strategy - Class of 1995

ACADEMICS

DEGREES

Bachelor of Arts
Bachelor of Science
Bachelor of Fine Arts
Bachelor of Music
Master of Arts in Teaching
Master of Education
Educational Specialist
Master of Liberal Arts
Master of Music

FACULTY

Full-time faculty: 72, 85% hold Ph.D. or a Terminal Degree
Student/Faculty Ratio 9:1 undergraduate, 7:1 in Petrie School of Music

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Nisbet Honors Program
Study Abroad Scholarships
Converse College Institute for Leadership
Independent/Collaborative Research
Bonner Leaders Program
Internships
60 student organizations
NCAA Division II Athletics
Basketball, Cross Country, Soccer, Tennis, Volleyball
(A nationally competitive equestrian program is also offered through the department of physical education.)

ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT

Fall 2003 Enrollment (full and part time)

Undergraduate	707
Graduate	897
TOTAL	1604

2003 Undergraduate Degrees Awarded	167
2003 Graduate Degrees Awarded	240

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

2003-04 Annual Operating Budget \$17,016,443

2003-04 Total Student Fees	\$24,710
Tuition	\$18,915
Room & Board	\$5,795

Total 2003-04 Scholarship Awards \$5,985,250
90% of undergraduate students receive financial assistance

ALUMNAE REUNION WEEKEND!

April 23-25, 2004
Everyone is welcome!

This year Converse extends a special welcome to classes ending in 4's and 9's, the Class of 2003, and the Golden Club (1925 through 1953) for Alumnae Reunion Weekend. Contact Elizabeth G. Simons, Associate Director of Alumnae, by E-mail at elizabeth.simons@converse.edu or at 864-596-9058 for more information. (See advertisement on inside front cover.)

Travel with Converse

Waterways of Holland and Belgium

April 30 - May 8, 2004

A collaborative effort between the Converse College Alumnae Office and the Wofford College Alumni Office



Explore the waterways of Holland and Belgium aboard the exclusively chartered M/S Swiss Pearl, your private yacht for eight days. You will enter a world of windmills, canals, and architecture starting with Amsterdam, then Hoorn, Deventer, Arnhem, and The Hague. Shore excursions include the Keukenhof Gardens, Kroller Moller Museum, Delft, Rotterdam, the Delta Project on the beautiful Zeeland coast, Ghent, Bruges, and Antwerp. For more information, call the Converse College Alumnae Office at 1-800-584-9098.

Converse Alumnae Board Sets the Pace for 2003-04

by Melissa Daves Jolly '69, Director of Alumnae

Twenty Converse College Alumnae Association Board members assembled in the mountains of North Carolina at Lake Summit for their fall retreat. Board members and staff stayed in the homes of Bill and Valerie Barnett, Walter and Betty James Montgomery '72, Andy and Harriet Messer Goldsmith '69, and Bobby and Day Newton King '71.

The weekend agenda included campus updates from President Nancy Gray; Heather Patchett, Vice President for Institutional Advancement; Beth Farmer, Director of Communications; Haven Hart, Dean of Students; Susan Ikerd, Vice President of Enrollment Management; and Debbie Elliott, Director of Undergraduate Admissions.

The board's initial work for the year took place within five committees: Converse Alumnae Recruitment Effort (CARE), Converse Clubs, Records and Recognition, Nominating, and Development.

The board discussed outreach initiatives to help reconnect alumnae who have become disconnected with Converse over the years, including plans to rally club chairs, class fund representatives, CARE

committee members, and other volunteers to join in the effort. The board is also exploring new ways to encourage alumnae to come back to visit the campus. This year's plans include holding mini-reunions during reunion weekend for all who participated in London Term and Crescent. In addition, Young Alumnae from Greenville and Spartanburg recently attended the 1889 skit and dance competition at Converse followed by an "after party" at Abby's Grill.

The board also set a goal of 100% giving participation in the Converse Annual Fund as an example for all alumnae. Each member was challenged to pass on the fee-waived application, which was sent to all alumnae earlier this fall, to a prospective student. Empowered with information and contagious enthusiasm, each attendee left the retreat with a renewed commitment to the special sisterhood that Converse women, both current students and alumnae, all share.

Converse Alumnae Board



Meet Heather Patchett, Vice President for Institutional Advancement



Heather Patchett was named Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Converse College in August. She leads the College's advancement team, which includes the offices of development, communications, and alumnae relations.

"Heather hit the ground running in August, and has already formed fast friendships with hundreds of alumnae and friends of Converse," said President Gray. "She has been busy this fall with our Board of Visitors, traveling to alumnae events, mapping out a planned giving program, hiring development staff, creating a phoning center for the Converse Annual Fund, and meeting with as many donors as possible. Heather is a delightful person with a 'can do' attitude and a strategic vision who is committed to the mission of Converse."

Raised in Nashville, TN, Heather comes to Converse after serving as Director of Capital Gifts for University of the South (Sewanee, TN). In previous positions, she worked in annual giving, major gifts and planned giving at Gustavus Adolphus

College (St. Peter, MN), with Christenson Walberg & Associates, and Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN). She graduated cum laude with a BA in political science from the University of the South, and completed her MAT at Alaska Pacific University (Anchorage, AK).

"Both the campus community as well as friends and alumnae associated with Converse have made me feel at home from the moment I set foot on this campus," Heather said. "Having attended an all-girls high school, it feels much like coming home to be in this environment. My own experience of the value of single-gender education will be invaluable in my role at Converse."

"Converse donors and volunteers are unparalleled in their commitment to this wonderful institution, and I am thrilled to be a part of such a special time in the College's history. We have just finished a hugely successful capital campaign that exceeded everyone's expectations, but we cannot rest. The future of the College will be defined by the strength of her enrollment and the strength of her endowment. I am honored to work with the devoted alumnae and generous donors who will make us successful in both these areas. I am particularly excited about building a planned giving program to encourage people to remember Converse in their estate plans, and to broadening and strengthening the base of support for the Converse Annual Fund."

Dear Fellow Alumnae,



It is hard to believe that the holiday season is here! This is the time to reflect on the many things that we have to be thankful for, and at Converse College, there are so many things. The Campaign for Converse reached its conclusion, raising \$82.5 million. 56% of our alumnae participated in this highly successful campaign! Our new Phifer Science Hall is well underway and its progress is exciting to watch. The Belk Hall renovations are complete with many of our students now enjoying their beautiful suites and semi-private bathrooms. The Belk lounge is completely redecorated (thanks to Jane Boatwright Schwab and her 1977 classmates!) and renovations to other residence halls are underway as well. Once again, I encourage you to visit the campus. It has never looked better, thanks to our campaign and your generosity.

The holiday season is also a time for giving. Please remember that our Converse Annual Fund is ongoing each and every year. This is the time for each of us to support Converse financially and a gift of any size really does count. Another special "gift" is that of a student. Sustaining Converse College depends on our referrals of prospective students, for only we can explain why Converse is and always has been such a special school. That is truly a gift that any of us can afford. I ask you to join with me in participating in our Converse Annual Fund and in the Converse Alumnae Recruitment Effort (CARE) this year.

I wish for you and your family a very safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Carol

Carroll Sibley Clancy '71,
Alumnae Association President

CLUBEVENTS

October 9, 2003
Myrtle Beach, SC

Cocktail buffet hosted by Manuel and Emily Jackson Vallarino '65

Front row (l to r): Mary Emily Platt Jackson '42 and Nelson Jackson; Back row: John Gandy, Rachel Jackson Gandy '76, President Nancy Gray, Emily Jackson Vallarino '65, Manuel Vallarino



CLUBEVENTS

October 16, 2003
Columbia, SC

Cocktails hosted at the Columbia Museum of Art by Jack and Elaine Finklea Folline '58, Randy and Lanie Folline Epting '81, Lee and Emily Folline Mikell '84

(l to r) Melissa Daves Jolly '69, Lee Mikell, Emily Folline Mikell '84, Jack Folline, Elaine Finklea



Folline '58, Randy Epting, Lanie Folline Epting '81, President Nancy Gray

In a Roller Coaster Economy, Gift Annuities Offer Security, Support

For many people, retirement brings fear and frustration over limited income and declining resources. Those on a fixed and limited income, who planned to live on investments, have found that declining markets have diminished the nest eggs they had built and that once-generous dividends have all but dried up.

There is good news: a charitable gift annuity (CGA) may provide a much better rate of return than the current market, while benefiting the education of young women at Converse College. It is an attractive gift and income alternative to those who have appreciated assets that are no longer producing sufficient income, or for those who may wish to help an aging parent.

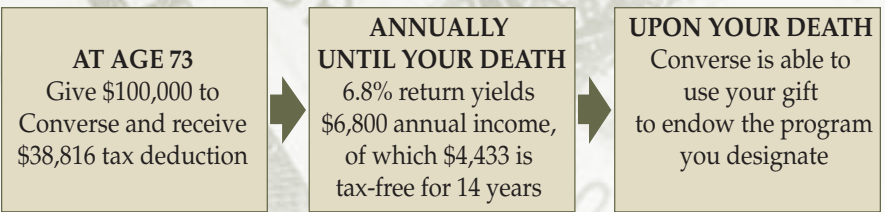
A CGA works simply. The donor makes a gift to Converse and receives, in return, an income guaranteed for their

life and/or the life of another. Rates of return are set by the American Council on Gift Annuities (www.acga-web.org) and vary with the age of the income recipient. The donor receives an immediate tax deduction and a portion of the annual income for a period of years comes tax-free.

If you are interested in receiving an

illustration of what a gift annuity might mean for you, please contact Heather Patchett, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, at 864-596-9217 or heather.patchett@converse.edu. Your inquiry is confidential, there is no cost or obligation, and we encourage you to involve your own financial advisors in your consideration of this charitable gift.

Example Scenario (based on current charitable annuity rates)



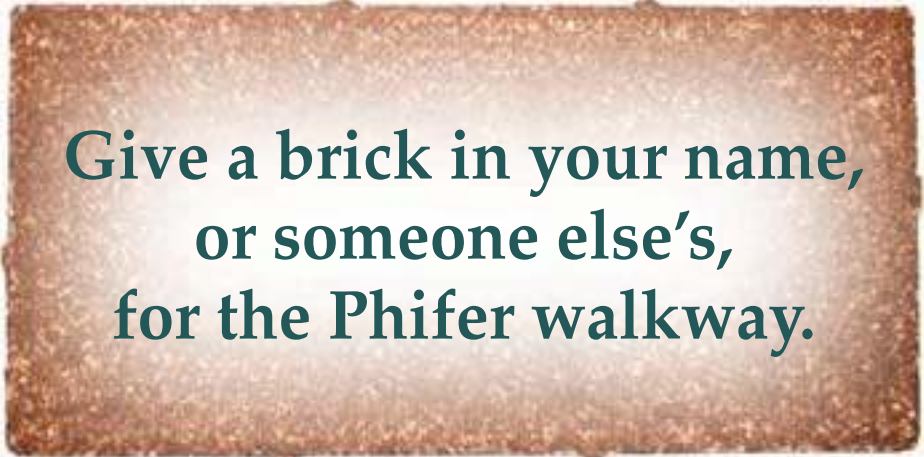
Converse Receives \$750,000 Check from Kresge Foundation

On October 7, 2003, a grateful Converse received a check for \$750,000.00 from the Board of the Kresge Foundation.

The receipt of the check marks the successful conclusion of the Kresge Challenge, offered in the final months of the *Campaign for Converse: Building for the Future* by the Michigan-based foundation.

One of the primary goals of the Kresge Foundation is to strengthen and build the support base of the institution receiving the grant. The sale of bricks for the Phifer Walkway was one means of raising support for the Kresge Challenge, for Phifer, and for the Converse Annual Fund. More than 500 bricks have been purchased for the project. If you are interested in giving a brick, it is not too late! Please contact Ginger Phillips '97, Director of the Converse Annual Fund, at 864-596-9053 or ginger.phillips@converse.edu.

Overall, more than 56% of Converse Alumnae made a gift to the Campaign.



Dear Friends,

How wonderful it is to be writing to you as the new Vice President of Institutional Advancement at Converse College. It is an honor to be a part of your beloved College, to be warmly welcomed by so many new alumnae friends, and to work with President Nancy Gray and a phenomenally talented staff, and the most generous and dedicated donors I have ever encountered. To arrive at the end of the most successful campaign in Converse's history and to receive, as my first charge, the directive to go out and thank alumnae and friends for their support is almost too good to be true!

I have loved meeting so many of you in my first months at Converse, and I hope I have conveyed to you my gratitude and the gratitude of the College for your exemplary support for the Converse Annual Fund and the *Campaign for Converse*. For those of you I have not

yet met, please know that I look forward to meeting you and thanking you, personally, for your investment in this special institution.

You have heard or read about all that has been accomplished through the Campaign. While scholarships, endowments, buildings and renovation are all examples of Campaign success, the real story here is people. There are

more students in this year's freshman class, drawn to our quality education in action. Like Jordan Cain '04 (see article page 10), they are finding scholarships, internships, opportunities for study/travel, and research with professors more prevalent and better funded. Like Wendy Jolley-Kabi '91, they are finding opportunities for service, leadership and learning at home and across the globe.

Having said that, I realize only a small part of my job is done. If we choose to rest in the glow of our great Campaign success, we will immediately begin to slip behind academically, technologically, in our recruiting, and in our commitment to our students. And so we are on the move, looking forward, and hard at work with many of you to keep Converse strong.

We are making strides in the Office of Institutional Advancement to keep Converse moving forward. We are finished with our first phase of developing the complete Converse web site (www.converse.edu) and are now looking toward phase two. We are expanding and strengthening our spring reunion (April 23-25, 2004) to encourage more people to return to campus and reconnect. We are hiring a

new Director of Planned Giving to better offer giving opportunities to our donors. The Converse Annual Fund has students phoning alumnae three nights a week to talk to them about the campus today and ask for their support.

How can you help? Be involved: recruit a student, make a gift to the Converse Annual Fund, talk to our Converse students when they call from the Phonathon, attend an alumnae event, come home to visit the campus. Celebrate your Converse connections and share Converse with others.

I look forward to celebrating the many successes of Converse and her wonderful students, alumnae and friends with you.

Heather Patchett
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

CLUBEVENTS

Washington, DC
September 30, 2003

Jackie Noyes '69 hosted a cocktail party in her home in Alexandria, Virginia. Among those in attendance were (l to r) Suzanne Warfield Johnson '63, Peggy Rainwater '63, Jackie Noyes '69 and Kay Humphries Maddox '73.



CLUBEVENTS

October 9, 2003
Spartanburg, SC

A coffee was held to welcome Margaret Newton Waterstradt '76 (back row, fourth from left), wife of the new minister at First Presbyterian Church, back to Spartanburg. The event was held at the home of President Gray.



FACULTY & STUDENT Accomplishments

Faculty Accomplishments

Dianne Bagnol (Art) was presented with the 2003 Outstanding Performance in Higher Art Education Award by the South Carolina Art Education Association.

Dr. Jeffrey Barker (Religion and Philosophy) published an essay "Common-pool Resources and Population Genomics in Iceland, Estonia, and Tonga," in *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy* 6:2 (2003). He also published a review of Susan Neiman's book, *Evil in Modern Thought: An Alternative History of Philosophy*, in *Choice* (June 2003). In July, Barker presented a paper on population genomics as applied technology at the annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Technology.

Mac Boggs (Art) was invited to participate in a sculpture invitational exhibition at the Elizabeth Stone Harper Gallery in the Harper Center for the Arts at Presbyterian College. Boggs joined artists from Germany, New York City, Atlanta, and Charleston, SC.

Dr. Anita Davis (Education) received a summer research grant from Converse to complete work on *Rutherford County in World War II*, a pictorial history honoring war veterans that was published this fall. More than 70 veterans featured in the book participated in a book signing to commemorate the debut. The book has already achieved best seller status in the county.

Dr. Joe Dunn (History and Politics) was the faculty sponsor on the inaugural Arab League exchange program in Cairo, Egypt, sponsored by the U.S. Council of Arab Relations. Two Converse students (**Casey Addis '04** and **Valerie Brock '03**) participated in the program. Dr. Dunn also spent a week in Ghana, West Africa, where he was honored at the dedications of several projects that he acquired the funds to construct, including an orphanage, two churches, a pastor's manse, and several village chapels.

Steve Hunt (Theatre and Dance) has been appointed as playwriting chair for Region IV of the Kennedy Center Theatre Festival.

Kenneth Law (Music) joined the Lyra Quartet (formed out of the Atlanta Symphony) and recorded for Georgia Public Radio.

Rick Mulkey (English) had four poems accepted for publication this summer. "Insomnia" was accepted by *The Literary Review*; "Homecoming" by *The North Dakota Quarterly*; "Casualties" by *Poet Lore*; and "Winter Evidence" and "Communion" by *Alca-Lines*. All but "Communion" are featured in the book manuscript, *Toward Any Darkness*, a finalist for the John Ciardi Prize with the University of Missouri-KC's BKMK press.

Dr. Scott Robbins (Music) received his 10th consecutive ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers) Award for his compositional activity. His "Quartet for Violin, Viola, Cello, and Piano" received honorable mention in the 2003 Red Stick International Composition Competition, sponsored by the

National Association of Composers, USA. Dr. Robbins' composition, "Just Like Job," was selected for performance at the College Music Society meeting in Miami, Florida, in October. He traveled to Miami with Converse colleagues who performed the composition to rave reviews.

Katharine Slemenda (Deaf Education) played a leading role in securing a \$1.8 million grant from PT3 (Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology) for colleges and universities and state-supported agencies throughout the country. The grant will enable the institutions to establish a web-based network to study the effectiveness of various approaches used in deaf education.

Dr. Edna Steele (Biology) and **Toni Hicks '03** have had their manuscript, "Histological Study on the Effect of Ascocotyle (Digenea: Heterophyidae) Infection on the Heart Morphology of the Fish Host" accepted for publication by the *Journal of the South Carolina Academy of Science*.

Doug Whittle (Art) is one of two Spartanburg artists to contribute to the city's new Marriott at Renaissance Park hotel project.

The Ensemble Radieuse (**Christopher Vaneman**, flute; **Kelly Vaneman**, oboe; and **Melanie Foster Taylor**, piano) released their first CD, *inbox*. The ensemble performed several selections from *inbox* at the 2003 International Double Reed Society Conference.

Student Accomplishments

Lauren Boughman '07 was awarded best essay from the Converse class of 2007's first summer freshman reading and essay requirement, *The Road from Coorain* by Jill Ker Conway.

Laura Burgess '04, **Tara Byrdsong '06**, and **Alison Turner '03** traveled to Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, to take part in a masterclass with Ransom Wilson, one of the world's premier flutists. The three Converse students were among a select group of 20 from throughout the country who participated in the one-week session. Students submitted an audition tape to be considered for admission.

Cindy Brown '04 and **Jane Marion '04** represented Converse at the Conference on Southern Women's History at the University of Georgia this past summer. They attended sessions on careers in public history and historical museums' efforts to reach out to public schools, attended sessions where scholars presented the latest research in Southern women's history, and met graduate students and professors from graduate programs at major universities all over the country.

A group of Converse art students and alumnae were invited to participate in the Southern Women's Colleges Art Exhibition Sept. 21-Nov. 23 in the Rotunda Gallery at Meredith College. Participants from Converse included **Brandy Burrell '03**, **De Anna Conn '00**, **Evie Durant '04**, **Andrea Ezell '03**, **Julie Frick '03**, **Joy Gaulden '05**, and **Halliley Knights '06**.

THE Granddaughters Club

The Alumnae Office hosted a drop-in on September 4, 2003, to welcome new members of the Granddaughters Club. Freshmen granddaughters, along with their mothers and other family members, were greeted by the Alumnae Office staff. Sponsored by the Alumnae Office, the Granddaughters Club is a student organization that works to promote contact between students and alumnae through special events and projects.



- 1 **Jessica Atherton** granddaughter of Louise Turner Atherton '51
- 2 **Grace Bagwell** daughter of Gail O'Shields Bagwell '78
- 3 **Lydia Hutchings Bardin** daughter of Lydia Gatling Bardin '74
- 4 **Ashleigh Burnett** daughter of Ellen Miller Burnett '80
- 5 **Ashley Cleveland** daughter of Alice Owings Cleveland '75 and great-granddaughter of Alice Owings Martin '25
- 6 **Taylor Hart** daughter of Renee Smith Hart '92
- 7 **Lauren Johnson** daughter of Pamela Johnson '96 MEd
- 8 **Sarah Johnstone** daughter of Julia Wilkes Thomas '02
- 9 **Beth Mulkey** daughter of Marti Hunt Mulkey '77
- 10 **Caroline Sheorn** daughter of Betsy Mahony Sheorn '76
- 11 **Michelle Sloan** daughter of Becky Elliott '83

HONOR&MEMORIALGIFTS

JUNE 1, 2003 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2003

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In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Occasion _____

By (Contributor's Name) _____

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IN MEMORIAM

Frances AUSTELL McMillin '21, September 12, 2003.
Mary Anne DANIELS '24, August 5, 2003.
Nettie SIEGEL Kessler '28, September 15, 2003.
Mary MCLAURIN Weatherly '29, June 23, 2003.
Catherine Rena VIA '29, August 15, 2003.
Dorothy MCDONALD McCown '31, August 19, 2003.
Volina CLINE Valentine '32, September 1, 2003.
Perrin CUDD Eidson '32, September 1, 2003.
Emily Post PITTS '34, June 5, 2003.
Jane STOCKARD Brown '34, June 5, 2003.
Alice STRINGFIELD Hill '34, July 8, 2003.
Ellen COKER Twitty '36, September 6, 2003.
Elisabeth TURNER Lentz '36, September 25, 2003.
Frances JENNINGS Cannon '39, September 27, 2003.
Edna KNOTT White '39, Fall 2002.
Martha GAFFNEY Hechenbleikner '42, June 24, 2003.
Elizabeth LAKE Pollard '42, July 10, 2003.
Leona NOVIT Siegel '42, June 18, 2003.
Emily RASH Grubb '42, July 22, 2003.
Betty VANETTEN Johnson '43, July 28, 2003.
Cherry SIMS Rembert '45, August 13, 2003.
June SMITH Payne '45, July 17, 2002.
Anne RAMSEUR Caldwell '48, August 1, 2003.
Corrie MILLER Whitlock '58, September 5, 2003.
Sarah SWICEGOOD Davis '59, June 6, 2003.
Elizabeth "Lucky" DUCKETT Krilowicz '62, September 6, 2003.
Margaret "Peggy" MCGRATH '63, August 10, 2003.
Kathryn Jane BAIRD '71, September 23, 2003.
Marion COLE '78, September 10, 2002.
Julie Kathryn FLYNN '80, September 25, 2003.
Natalie ROWLAND Segars '91, June 24, 2003.
Bruce Lee MILLS '99 MED, '02 EdS, September 10, 2003.

SYMPATHY

To Margaret "Peg" PITTS Kleiber '37 on the death of her sister, Emily P. PITTS '34, June 5, 2003.
To Julia Mae EASTERLING Guess '39 on the death of her husband, Dr. Joseph H. Guess, August 1, 2003.
To Betty LEWIS Burnett '46 on the death of her husband, Stuart Burnett, September 2, 2003.
To Harriet ANCRUM Ballenger '47 on the death of her husband, Clarence E. Ballenger, July 29, 2003.
To Cynthia E. MOSELEY '47 on the death of her brother, Daniel DuPre' Moseley, June 29, 2003.
To Kitty PEELER Carson '49 on the death of her husband, Carl Eugene Carson, Jr., August 28, 2003.
To Julia JONES Daniels '53 on the death of her mother, Julia Bryan Pugh Jones, September 5, 2003.
To Jane KERR Williams '54 on the death of

her sister, Nancy Kerr Freeman, September 22, 2003.
To Patricia VINES Darnell '56 on the death of her brother, Buddy Vines, July 17, 2003.
To Sarah E. LOBBAN '58 on the death of her mother, Virginia N. Lobban, March 26, 2003.
To Martha Joan "Jo" HARTNESS Guinn '60 on the death of her mother, Edna Gladden Hartness, June 14, 2003.
To Fenn MORSE Starratt '64 on the death of her mother, Emily P. PITTS '34, June 5, 2003.
To Kitty OLDHAM Young '66 on the death of her mother, Anna Katharine "A.K." Oldham, September 28, 2003.
To Melinda CROW Harper '67 on the death of her father, Francis Bernard Crow, February 2002 and her mother, Joan Johnston Crow, January 2003.
To Trudy DUCKETT Reeves '67 on the death of her sister, Elizabeth "Lucky" DUCKETT Krilowicz '62, September 6, 2003.
To Anne JONES Holloway '67 on the death of her father, Curtis H. Jones, July 13, 2003.
To Sandra JONES Husted '67 on the death of her mother, Cassie Carty Jones, September 26, 2003.
To Barbara BAKER Kennedy '68 on the death of her father, Dr. Edgar DeWees Baker, September 2, 2003.
To Susan Jane COLLINS '69 on the death of her father, Edwin Paxson Collins, Sr., September 28, 2003.
To Dottie GRANTHAM Deglmann-Schwarz '69 on the death of her brother, G. Leighton Grantham III, September 2, 2003.
To Ellen COLLINS White '74 on the death of her father, Edwin Paxson Collins, Sr., September 28, 2003.
To Sarah HART Neighbors '75 on the death of her twin brother, Duff Hart, January 23, 2003.
To Page IRWIN Lee '75 on the death of her husband, Ned Everette Lee, July 29, 2003.
To Margaret NEWTON Waterstradt '76 on the death of her father, Dr. John L. Newton, February 13, 2003.
To Geneva RICHARDSON Cromer '78 on the death of her father, Julius Roy Richardson, July 18, 2003.
To Hattie EVANS Boyce '82 on the death of her mother, Jacqueline Thelma Hatcher Evans, June 24, 2003.
To Krisila NEWMAN Foster '85 on the death of her father, James Fred "Buck" Newman, August 26, 2003.
To Monica ROWLAND Loving '86 on the death of her sister, Natalie ROWLAND Segars '91, June 24, 2003.
To Mary Kay SECKINGER '87 on the death of her father, A.L. Seckinger, Jr., February 27, 2003.
To Laura Kate MOORE '95 on the death of her father, John T. Moore, January 21, 2003.
To Bryce COPELAND Mazur '01 on the death of her husband, Andrew John Mazur, August 17, 2003.
To Lindsay BIRMINGHAM '01 on the death of her grandmother, Monica Gauthier, May 5, 2003.
To Ashaah Raza BALKHI '03 on the death of

her grandfather, Qamrul Hasan, September 19, 2003.

MARRIAGES
Peggy Anne SIMPSON Dominick '54 to John "Jack" Tatum Zeigler, Jr., May 2003.
Kelli Denise WATERS '89 to Joey Richard Taylor, May 3, 2003.
Wendy JOLLEY '91 to Tsepo Kabi, May 23, 2003.
Julie WESTON '91 to Roger B. Daniels, July 18, 2003.
Kristin Leigh COCHRAN '94 to Kenneth Scott Ambory, September 13, 2003.
Jamy Taylor HORRES '95 to James Stannard Hurteau, Jr., August 23, 2003.
Kristin JOHNSON '96 to Kevin Eric Welsh, July 26, 2003.
Betty Kate BARRETT '97 to Matthew Brian Mayes, May 31, 2003.
Kerry Lea EASLER '97 to Daniel Corey Philbeck, June 28, 2003.
Emily Daniela GOWDY '97 to Hoyt Paul Canady III, July 19, 2003.
Erin Elizabeth KLOSKEY '97 to Christopher James Couchell, May 31, 2003.
Donna MATZ '97 MED to Ryan Barrick, June 7, 2003.
Jennifer Lynn SCHWARTZ '97 to Michael Case Henderson, September 27, 2003.
Lynsey Justine CARMICHAEL '98 to Ashley Mills Bullington, July 12, 2003.
Patricia Kristen PETTY '98 MED to Kevin Cato Ammons, July 12, 2003.
Kelli Marie ALLISON '99 to Michael Lee Daves, July 21, 2003.
Martha DRAKE '99 to Andrew Parish Marshall, June 14, 2003.
Anna Lynn Earle to Robert Charles GRANT '99 MED, May 31, 2003.
Nelwyn Alanna LANDRETH '99 to Craig Daniel Linder, August 28, 2003.
Angela Jo BARNHART '00 MED to Tony Earl Minick, June 7, 2003.
Lucia Elizabeth LANGFORD '00 to Thomas Bowe Hansen, May 24, 2003.
Rebecca Lynn RAULERSON '00 MLA to Remsen Bauknight Parrish, June 14, 2003.
Pamela Jill RHODES '00 to Matthew Hugh Cothran, June 7, 2003.
Brooke BURTELLE '01 to Joshua Phillips, May 24, 2003.
Rebecca Elizabeth CRANDALL '01 to Jason Griffin, June 22, 2003.
Rebecca Macfie IRICK '01 to Samuel Corey Gault, June 7, 2003.
Anna Paige KERCHMAR '01, '02 MAT to Randall Harris Collins, June 21, 2003.
Caroline MCKENZIE '01 to Richard Albert Livingston, Jr., May 31, 2003.
Charnell Nurit' MILLER '01 to Christopher Louis Sexton, June 7, 2003.
Tracy Yolanda SULLIVAN '01 MED to Kenneth Atkins, August 2, 2003.
LeighAnne MITCHELL '02 to Thomas Zachary Terry, August 30, 2003.
Sara Jane NICHOLAS '02 to Trey Moran, June 7, 2003.
Melinda Irene REDMAN '02 to Christopher Douglas Cody, June 28, 2003.

Ione Margaret King RUCKER '02 MED to Antawn Cortez Jamison, July 12, 2003.
Amy Melissa STEWART '02 to Nathan Andrew Quinn, June 14, 2003.
Danielle Evelyn BAKER '03 to William Floyd Gibbs, Jr., June 28, 2003.
Tiffany Anne GARRETT '03 to William Travis Lanier, June 12, 2003.
Robyn Lee HILL '03 to Eric Sanderson, August 30, 2003.
Rebekah Carol HILTON '03 to Andrew David Hans, July 19, 2003.
Laura Ruth JONES '03 to David Grady Chumley, May 31, 2003.
Kimberly KOOPMAN '03 to Jonathan Durham, August 16, 2003.
Kristen Ane SHUFELT '03 to Chadwick Layne Walker, June 28, 2003.

BIRTHS

Joseph Edward Jackson, June 21, 2003, son of Brian and Ann LANIER Jackson '86.
Maya Lynn Wessler, May 31, 2003, daughter of Wade and Sibyl SEXTON Wessler '86.
Ellison Hollingsworth Watkins, May 26, 2003, daughter of Michael Watkins and Nancy DAVENPORT '87.
Sophia Catherine Stein, February 20, 2003, daughter of Jon Loshbaugh and Mary Kay SECKINGER '87.
McKinley Exum Bassett, July 7, 2003, daughter of Wyatt and Bartlett SPENCER Bassett '89.
Grace Marie Hensley, June 4, 2003, daughter of Bill and Tricia BERRY Hensley '90.
Natalie Ann Salko and Neeleigh Celeste Salko, October 14, 2002 in Guangdong, China, adopted September 15, 2003, twin daughters of Richard and Melissa CARLTON Salko '92.
Virginia Lynn Plettner, June 27, 2003, daughter of Patrick and Karen PREACHER Plettner '92.
Helen Ellsworth Clarke, April 20, 2003, daughter of Edward and Andrea RIGG Clarke '92.
Thomas E. Benton III, March 6, 2003, son of Thomas and Lori FRADY Benton '93.
William Miller Plaster, July 3, 2003, son of Will and Cassie LUCE Plaster '93.
Myers Littleton White, July 2, 2003, son of Jonathan and Lovell MCCLUNG White '93.
Sara Leighton Kennerly, April 8, 2003, daughter of Brian and Holle O'KELLEY Kennerly '93.
Mason William Fitts, December 2, 2002, son of Dan and Melissa WILLIAMS Fitts '93.
Canady Walker Little, April 11, 2003, daughter of Craig Michael and Catherine CANADY Little '94.
Anthony Spencer Towns, May 30, 2003, son of Anthony and Christie FRANCK Towns '94.
William H. Rogers III, March 26, 2003, son of William and Elizabeth MCCLARY Rogers '94.
David William Gavin, Jr., June 18, 2003, son of David and Anne Harvin SMOAK Gavin '95.
Zoe Caroline Dillmon, December 3, 2002,

daughter of Kevin and Missy STUART Dillmon '95.
Anne Marie Chandler Leake, August 31, 2003, daughter of Patrick and Rhett BOYD Leake '96.
Clara Spencer Akers, August 2003, daughter of Dean and Sonja COYLE Akers '96.
Frank Carroll Foster III, June 7, 2003, son of Lee and Pam HUGHES Foster '96.
Mallie Anne Medlock, August 15, 2003, daughter of Bert and Jennifer JONES Medlock '96.
Katherine Greason Ackerman, September 8, 2003, daughter of Trey and Lisa SIEGEL Ackerman '96.
Mary Lauren Reese, February 4, 2003, daughter of Glen and Jennifer COGGINS Reese '97.
Ida Lee Lunsford, January 23, 2003, daughter of Scott and Charlotte DUBOSE Lunsford '97.
Benjamin Charles Carmelich and Nicholas Jennings Carmelich, September 14, 2003, twin sons of Richard and Kimberly FINNEY Carmelich '97.
Walker Oneal Hoffmann, July 31, 2003, son of David and Lisa SPRATLIN Hoffman '97.
Jacob David Prince, January 21, 2003, son of David and Stefanie WILLIAMS Prince '97.
James DeWitt Hook, Jr., July 15, 2003, son of Jamie and Elizabeth CURRENT Hook '98.
David Richard Thompson, July 3, 2003, son of Jeffrey and Brooke HARRIS Thompson '98.
Luke Patrick Sullivan, September 12, 2003, son of Mark and Fran JORDAN Sullivan '98.
Kaitlynn Grace Burbage, April 23, 2003, daughter of Jason and Christina WILLINGHAM Burbage '98.
Noah Christopher Parrish, June 4, 2003, son of Chris and Kelli MCCRAW Parrish '99, '01 MED.
Caleb Owen Smith, August 6, 2003, son of Travis and Amy OWENS Smith '99.
John Christian Hyleman, September 21, 2003, son of Zach and Rebecca ROLAND Hyleman '99.
Meredith Corene Hopper, August 9, 2003, daughter of Todd and Katie SCHEUER Hopper '99.
Tillman Anne Munson, April 5, 2003, daughter of Kevin and Ginny FLOWERS Munson '00.
Christian Barry Burnette, February 17, 2003, son of Barry and Katie BROCK Burnette '01.
Gabriel Tobias Huntsinger, February 2, 2003, son of Sonny and Bobbie L. HUNTSINGER '01 MED.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Joyce BURRELL Smith '76, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Margaret PEACH Wilson '84, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Cecelia Hood ENGLISH '85 MED, '01 EdS, Education Specialist, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Kimberly VARNER Alexander '85, Master of Arts in Teaching, Converse College, July 26, 2003.

(This form is available online at www.converse.edu)

Refer a Student to Converse

Name of student	_____
Street address	_____
City	_____
State	_____ Zip code _____
Telephone	_____
Name of high school	_____
Year of high school graduation	_____
Areas of interest	_____

Any relationship to Converse?	_____

Join the Converse Network

Please check areas in which you are interested.

_____	Alumnae Board
_____	Development/Fundraising
_____	Class Representative
_____	Converse Clubs
_____	Serve on an Alumnae Telephone Committee
_____	Assist Admissions with Student Recruitment
_____	Provide an Internship Opportunity for Current Students
_____	Host Reception for Prospective Students
_____	Attend a College Fair
_____	Call Prospective Students
_____	Provide Contacts with Hiring Personnel

Alumnae Information Update

Please include relevant dates and information in order for your life event to be published. Please type or print all information.

Name (first, maiden, last)	_____
Class year	_____
Street address	_____
City	_____
State	_____ Zip code _____
Home phone	_____
Work phone	_____
E-mail	_____
Vacation address	_____
Street address	_____
City	_____
State	_____ Zip code _____

Marriage Announcement

(no engagements, please)

Name (first, maiden, last)

Class year

Spouse's full name

Date of marriage

Birth/Adoption Announcement

(please circle)

Mother's name (first, maiden, last)

Class year

Father's name

Daughter's/Son's name (first, middle, last)

Birth date

Career Change

Title

Company

Street address

City State

Zip code Work phone

Advanced Degree

Degree earned

Date awarded

College/University

Death Announcement

(attach additional sheet if necessary)

Name of deceased (first, maiden, last)

Class year Date of death

Place of death

Surviving relative

Address of surviving relative

Mail or fax this form to:

Converse College Alumnae Office
580 East Main Street
Spartanburg, SC 29302
Fax: 864-596-9735

You can recommend a student by
sending an E-mail to info@converse.edu.

Suzanne Marie SMITH '87, Master of Arts in Teaching, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Leasa STYLES Brannon '87, Master of Arts in Teaching, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Pamela MCGRAW Watts '88, Master of Liberal Arts, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Dianne Yutz DEHART '89, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Rhonda GEDDIS Wood '90, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Melissa SMITH Reid '90, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Jennie CASTON Bulman '91, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Anne Mosier CHAPMAN '91 MEd, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Teresa Dye PEELER '92, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Ida Parris THOMPSON '92 MEd, Education Specialist, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Charlotte L. BAYNARD '93 MEd, Education Specialist, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Ruth Bond HOWELL '93 MEd, Education Specialist, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Andrea ROWLAND Howard '93, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Julie Lynn DILLON '94, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Leslie WEAVER Turnage '94, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Bridgett C. BAILEY '95, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, The Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, June 7, 2003.
Tara MERRITT Burgess '95, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Jill Revis BROCK '96, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Betty Kate BARRETT Mayes '97, Doctor of Medicine, Medical University of South Carolina, May 2003.
Eric Glenn BLANTON '97 MEd, Educational Specialist, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Vickie Sheree DURRAH '97, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Miriam Kellett PATTON '97, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Lynsey CARMICHAEL Bullington '98, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Melanie COLEMAN Campbell '98, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Rosie MILLER '98, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Valecia WOLFE Whitfield '98, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Le'Keisha Harper BROWN '99 MEd, Educational Specialist, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
James Michael DAVIS '99 MEd, Educational Specialist, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
George Edward MARSHALL, Jr. '99 MEd, Education Specialist, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Jolien MCDONNELL Collura '99, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Melissa Paige PYE Swink '99, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Cecilia Suzanne WARD Hughes '99, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.

Tammy Leigh DIXON '00 MEd, Educational Specialist, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Jenelle FOSTER Gilliam '00, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Susan Evelyn SCHAPER Thompson '00, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Amy Jo SKINNER Workman '00, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Lindsay BIRMINGHAM '01, Master of Music in Composition, Florida State University, May 2003.
Jennifer CADDELL McKinney '01, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Marcia Huskey GIBSON '01, Master of Arts in Teaching, Converse College, July 26, 2003.
Charity Michelle GRAHAM '01, Master of Education, Converse College, July 26, 2003.

CAREER CHANGES

Kelli WATERS Taylor '89, Senior Minister, Trinity United Methodist Church, Greenville, SC.
Julie WESTON Daniels '91, National Sales Manager, HelmsBriscoe, Charleston, SC.
Karen STEPP Richter '92, Assistant Director of the Graduate School Office, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC.
Kristin JOHNSON Welsh '96, Pediatric Rheumatology Fellowship Coordinator, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC.
Kirstie WAUGH Tucker '96, Public Liason Office, Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC.
Andrea WYROSDICK Creech '96, Associate Dean of Students, Converse College, Spartanburg, SC.
Susan MISKELLY '97, Proofing Coordinator, Comporium Publishing, Rock Hill, SC.
Shayle ABELKOP '98, Instructional Designer, Tier 1 Performance Solutions, Covington, KY.
Alanna LANDRETH Linder '99, '02 MMUS, Associate Director of Management and Operations, Music Foundation of Spartanburg, Spartanburg, SC.
Kerri TUCKER '00, Elementary Music Teacher, Dorchester District 2, Summerville, SC.
Kathy JOYNER '01, Teacher, Z.L. Madden Elementary School, Spartanburg, SC.
Nicole KOCH '01, Clinical Data Analyst, Department of Research, University of Alabama at Birmingham.
Julie MCSWAIN '01, Elementary Guidance Counselor, Hartsville, SC.
Dana WILLIAMSON Taylor '01, Preschool Speech Therapist, Lexington School District 1, Lexington, SC.
LeighAnne MITCHELL Terry '02, Teacher, Hillcrest High School, Greenville, SC.
Robyn HILL Sanderson '03, Admissions Counselor, Converse College, Spartanburg, SC.
Carrie TUCKER '03, Admissions Counselor, Converse College, Spartanburg, SC.

CLASS OF 1933

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2004
Representative:
Mrs. Blanche Dennis Cantey
420 Joseph Walker Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169
Golden Club Class Fund Chair:
Mrs. Ann Ratterree Herlong '51



I'm old in my body
But still young in my head.
I think of what's behind
And things that I dread.
I long for the old past
To live over again
I still miss the good part
And now even the pain.
So take me away, Lord
While my mind is still clear
Take away my worries
Make Death nothing to fear.

CLASS OF 1943

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2004
Representative:
Mrs. E. Paul (Anne Crooks) Smith
205 S. Hickory Street
Summerville, SC 29483, 843-873-1846
Golden Club Class Fund Chair:
Mrs. Ann Ratterree Herlong '51



Thanks to Eunice Purnell Hodges for news of classmates. She says she enjoys seeing Nancy Vaughan Burns who frequently visits Spartanburg from Virginia. Barbara Brown Lee and Mamie Burnett Willard are in the same retirement home, The Cypress, in Charlotte, NC. Betty Cole Boyle has moved back to Spartanburg after her husband's death. Betty Oates Gage divides her time between Florida, Lake Summit, NC and Spartanburg. Mildred Willson Burnett has moved to Summit Hills, a retirement village in Spartanburg. Eunice says she is looking forward to family weddings with numerous Converse connections. Her granddaughter, Emily Hodges, is to marry John Decker whose grandmother is Leta Dupree Decker '42. Emily's mother is Loicka Coisne Hodges '72. Eunice's grandson, Elliott Hodges, is marrying in Mt. Pleasant, SC. His mother, Eunice's daughter-in-law, is Sally McKinnon Hodges '73. Eleanor "P.C." Howard Cummings and her sister, Virginia Howard McGahey '37, came across a book, Pilgrim in the Ruins, written by Jay Tolson, son of Margaret Jordan Young Tolson, about the life of Walker Percy. I talked to Jordan by phone in late August. Her daughter, Kyn Tolson, is

Deputy Managing Editor of The Day, a New London, CT newspaper. I keep missing Vivian Workman Huggins when she visits her son at Edisto. She wrote that she is still enjoying living in the country but it is fast becoming urban. She is thrilled to have a one year old great granddaughter. Peggy McAlister Sealy and Jack have lived in Greensboro at Wellspring Retirement Community since 1993. Jessamine Boyce Morris '41 and Mary Love May also live there. Peggy has studied jazz since 1994, continues to give many concerts, and is the accompanist for the Wellspring Choral Society in which Jack is the only tenor. Peggy and Jack have three children, seven grandchildren, and one three years old great granddaughter. Their son is an environmental biologist and a noted authority on rattlesnakes and is now teaching at UNC-Greensboro. Peggy and Jack go to Sanibel, FL in February and March where she sees Lois Bean Gaunt who has a condo in the same building. Peggy still likes to play golf. Betty Howard Luhn has moved from Charleston to the Presbyterian Home in Summerville, SC. I hear from Janelle Griffin Lovett from time to time. When P.C. and I had to cancel our reservations in Spartanburg at the last minute for our 60th class reunion, we missed seeing Janelle and other classmates. Mary Frances Morgan was a great help with arrangements for our class reunion and for providing notes for the summer bulletin. She is also much improved since her hip surgery in November '02. Peg Sealy told me it wouldn't be a true letter from Crooks if I didn't include a few French words. So, ecrivez-moi, s'il vous plait. J'attendrai ici pour nouvelles.

CLASS OF 1944

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2004
Representative:
Mrs. Catherine Gant Powell
122 Fairway Drive
Washington, NC 27889, 252-975-6902
Golden Club Class Fund Chair:
Mrs. Ann Ratterree Herlong '51



Margaret Workman Hudson is in touch with Anne Lomax Coward, Mary Dyches Kenney, and Bobbie Dial McAlister, all recovering well from various aches, pains, and surgeries. From Montreat Jean Hooper Crook and husband Jim were headed to his 60th reunion at Davidson. Grace Martin Phillips reports granddaughters entering Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill, and the arrival of their first great-grand, the fifth in line named Grace. Bessie Rice Ball moved to a retirement community in Spartanburg. She is the accompanist for sing-alongs, playing their grand piano. Martha Cloud Chapman '42 also lives there and gives tours of Spartanburg. Margaret Goodman Allen is excited about son Paul's

publication of a book written by Maggie's other son, Will, in 1979. Swords For Hire is a delight and great for children. Maggie and Julian live in Spartanburg now. Sister Buchan Creighton had a great cruise on the Mississippi from New Orleans to Memphis, a Mother's Day gift from (and with) daughter Clara Smith. Sister says Kent Seignious Freeman lives near her brother Obbe at Bishop Gadsden Village in Charleston. It was great to hear from Helen Gellert Gary who, with husband James, has lived in Honolulu for many years. Their twin sons, daughter, and seven "beautiful, extremely bright, and wonderful" grandchildren all live stateside. Mildred Page Hogarth, now Mickey, says she and Jack, a Citadel graduate, are celebrating 58 years together. Jane Fishburne Hipp has given up tennis but walks 2-3 miles a day. She sees Susan Simrill Manning '45 often and spends time in Blowing Rock, NC and Lake Summit, NC. My allotted space is filled. Look for news from Janet Kelly Bryan, Julia Bridger Cox, Allene Brohyll Heilman, Mary Crutchfield Macnab, Frances Griggs, Eddy McEachern Hicks, and Penny Parker Peterson in the next issue as I've heard from them all. Thanks to the communicators and love to all. Cacie

CLASS OF 1945

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2004
Representatives:
Mrs. Margaret Fulton Walker
208 Crest Drive
Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-658-2167
Mrs. Dee Jennings Tindal
10 Summit Place
Columbia, SC 29204, 803-256-2916
Mrs. Mary Fabisinski Roberts
1506 NW 36th Way
Gainesville, FL 32605, 352-376-7175
Golden Club Class Fund Chair:
Mrs. Ann Ratterree Herlong '51



Mary Fab enjoyed talking to Mildred Hart Ewell in Charlottesville, VA. Mildred was a good friend of Miss Gee's niece, Mary Wilson Gee '42, who was instrumental in getting Mildred to Converse. After attending one year, she went to business college for a year and then married Nathaniel, who was in medical school in a Navy program during World War II and was called to active duty during the Korean War. They had four boys, all of whom live in Virginia, and one girl, who raises horses in Montana, where Mildred spends every summer in the cottage her daughter has built next to her own home. The oldest son has taught overseas for 20 years and knows several languages. Mildred and her husband traveled extensively and it became their custom to spend Christmas in Venice. Even since his death in 1987, she and the children go to Venice for the holidays. Mildred's hobby



BARBARA STONE '51

In 1993, Dr. Barbara Stone '51 became the first woman to offer spiritual development guidebooks on the Internet. The ongoing project is collectively entitled *Return to Spirit*, and will eventually include seven issues. The guidebooks, which are free for download at www.spiritsong.org, were accepted by the Parliament of the Worlds Religions in 1999 as a gift to the world community.

Barbara explains that *Return to Spirit* is based on the Yogic chakra system, Buddhism, Sufism, and modern transpersonal psychology. “Chakras, which are known in Eastern traditions, are seven main energy centers of the body which start at the base of the spine and run up to the top of the head,” she said. “Transpersonal psychology is further probing of the mind, body, and spirit connection.”

As Professor of Psychology at Drew University (New Jersey), Barbara decided to spend a sabbatical at the Naropa Institute, a Buddhist graduate school in Boulder, Colorado. “I actually began my spiritual journey in 1978,” she says. “Then I went through several years of seeking before finding a teacher at Yasodhara Ashram in British Columbia.”

Barbara went on to found the House of Spirit Yoga Center in Cedaredge, Colorado, and served as its director for ten years. She also founded the Women’s Resource Center in Delta, Colorado. Dr. Stone holds a masters degree in Education from the University of Texas, and an EdD in Educational Psychology from Rutgers University.

is genealogy; she has traced the Harts back to Alexander the Great! I was delighted to visit by phone with **Alice Kinnaird Frankel**, whom most of us have not seen since we graduated, and who sounds exactly as we remember her. Married for 53 years, she lives on a cattle farm in her home town of Danville, KY, with her husband, Joe, who is retired but still works with their son on the farm. They have a son and a daughter, both in Danville, and four grandchildren: one in college, one in high school, and two eight-year-old girls from China. Alice describes it as a simple, happy life. With an address like Bluegrass Road, what else could it be? **Betty McCarty Edwards** writes that **Kathleen Morgan Donnelly** and Ted have moved to The Seabrook, a super retirement home on Hilton Head Island, and are very happy there. Happy 80th birthday, everybody! If not this year, then next!

CLASS OF 1946

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2004

Representative:

Mrs. Mary Helen Garrison Dalton
3064 Ridgewood Road NW
Atlanta, GA 30327, 404-355-0434
E-mail: mhdalton7@aol.com

Golden Club Class Fund Chair:

Mrs. Ann Ratterree Herlong '51



Sorry there were no '46 class notes in the last *Bulletin*. I had news but misplaced my notes. Have you had that happen? **Dicksie Brown Cribb** spent a lot of her summer at Lake Summit, NC with her children. In August she attended the National Federation of Music Clubs convention in Nashville, TN. She is making good progress learning to use her prosthesis. **Ann Llewellyn Ditto** and her husband moved to a retirement center in Greensboro, NC in August. They have not retired from playing golf as they competed in golf tournaments in Pinehurst and Waynesville, NC, this summer. **Josephine Stock Baumer** and her husband enjoy gardening. They also have a lake home and enjoy fishing. Their two grandsons, ages 12 and 13, live with them. I wonder who can tell the best fish story. **Spotswood Walker Box** is still flying all over in her helicopter. Last summer she spent two weeks in Maine and flew over Newport, New York, Long Island, etc. in her 'copter. She says that gives one a completely different perspective. I guess it is sort of like going to I Max! **Laurie Clark Bryant** had a successful cataract operation. There certainly are a lot of members for that club, but isn't it wonderful what can now be done? Their son is now in charge of their insurance business so it sounds as though they can take it easy. **Lila Dupre Donaldson** has a nice situation-she lives in Mt. Pleasant, SC, and her daughter

lives next door to her. **Betty Boyd Elmore** has moved to Springfield, VA. Her granddaughter, Megan Watson, was married in Atlanta, GA, in June in our church, Trinity Presbyterian. Megan works with our youth group. Small world! **Betty Lewis Burnett** lost her husband, Stuart, in September after a long, courageous battle with Parkinson's. She has children close by and hopes to get back to her horseback riding. **Mary Lynn Lewis Delaney** and Walt have moved to a retirement community in Burlington, NC. In July they took a trip across Canada on the Rocky Mountain train. **Jane Cudcleasure Haynes** has many nieces and nephews who keep her busy and entertained-or rather she entertains. She hosted a bridesmaids' luncheon at the Piedmont Club for her niece and a tea for the bride of her great nephew in Union, SC. The kitchen of her daughter, Theresa Bishop, was featured in the June issue of *Southern Living* magazine. **Louise Dunlap Howell** and Bob recently sailed to London on the QE2, stayed a week and flew home. They planned to spend two weeks in Japan in October. **Caroline Smoak Kears** was happy to report that her 54 year old son married this year for the first time. **Frances Evans Parker** is still playing the piano for her own enjoyment. **Rosa Strait** does a good job of keeping up with her family as she went to Ohio this summer to see her niece and to Florida to visit her sister. She had a show planned in November featuring her paintings. **Barbara Harris Randle** went to Mackinac Island in late spring and recommends it highly. Her four young great-grandchildren in Birmingham, AL, keep her hopping. She is also busy as yearbook chairman for the DAR as well as playing bridge. **Peggy Johnson Wallace** and her husband Don continue to enjoy living in Sarasota, FL, where they attend great opera and symphony performances. Don is retired from writing and producing television shows; one that we all remember is "One Life to Live." Peggy sings in the choir and tutors grade-school children. She and Don have three sons and seven grandchildren. **Dorothy Flory Fischer** lives in Columbia, SC, with her five children and ten grandchildren divided between Nashville, TN, and Charlotte, NC. She continues to participate with her bridge club of 40 years. **Mary Ann Curry Howard** was hospitalized this summer with breathing problems but says she is making a good recovery. **Marshall Bialosky** is still composing and was awarded first place in one of the 2001 Mu Phi Epsilon music contests for his work, *The Far Theatricals of Day*, a cycle of eight songs to poems of Emily Dickinson for soprano voice, flute, oboe, clarinet, and bass clarinet. Since retiring he has begun a new career teaching Distance Learning at California State University in L.A. (And I bet he is the only one in our class who has to attend PTA meetings for his 10 year old daughter!) Jim and I flew to Providence, RI in September, rented a car and visited Newport, Cape Cod, and took the ferry to Nantucket Island. Our

granddaughter (Nancy's daughter), Jamie, is a freshman at Sewanee. Grandson Blake (Mary Gossett's son) is a freshman Hope scholar at Georgia, so we're all more interested in Georgia athletics now. Jim has accepted chairmanship of his 60th Duke reunion next year so we're planning to attend that. Our 60th will be in 2006. Take good care of yourselves.

CLASS OF 1948

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2004

Representative:

Mrs. Eleanor "Skippy" Herbert Hale
5171 Yacht Club Road
Jacksonville, FL 32210, 904-387-9592
E-mail: skippyhale@earthlink.net

Golden Club Class Fund Chair:

Mrs. Ann Ratterree Herlong '51



I have truly enjoyed calling classmates to secure information for the *Bulletin*. I found most are enjoying home, children, and grandchildren. I spoke first with **Rosemary Blakely Allen** who lives in Spartanburg and enjoys bridge and her family. She plans to move into a retirement home in a couple of years, and she hopes to resume traveling soon. She said to tell everyone that she is doing fine. **Celeste Evans Burnam** lives with her doctor husband in Tuscaloosa, AL, where they are big Alabama fans. Roll Tide! I found **Eloise Harrington Breneman** in Oceanside, CA. She and her present husband have eight children between them. She has retired from the police department where she worked for nine different police chiefs. She enjoys cruises and reading with her grandson's class. **Margaret Peters Baroody** lives in Florence, SC. Her two daughters graduated from Converse: Selwa '79 and Peggy '74, who lives in Philadelphia where she teaches voice. **Bertie Hemingway Bunch** thinks health and nutrition. She lives in a high rise in Columbia, SC, and walks the 18 flights of steps daily. She enjoys bridge and the senior program at her church. **Grace Lee Butler Clarke** lives in Charlottesville, VA with her podiatrist husband. She has one grandson, six months old. She enjoys playing the piano since her retirement. **Ann McCandlish Carroll** works out three times a week in Mt. Pleasant, SC. She visited her daughter in Hawaii last year, and now that daughter lives in Columbia, SC. **Betty Baker Carter** spends every minute she can with her three year old namesake, who lives nearby. Betty went to Nova Scotia with some Newberry friends. **Lucy Davis Coleman** has three sons near her in Winnsboro, SC, and a daughter in Hartsville, SC. She enjoys her church work and playing bridge. **Carolyn Des Champs**

Blackford enjoys her three children who live near her in Spartanburg. If you have an E-mail address, please send it to me at my E-mail address listed. It's no telling who I will call next, so be ready with some positive news, 'cause it might be you!

CLASS OF 1953

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2004

Representative:

Mrs. Marilyn Mateer Sherrill
114 Briarwood Court
Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-583-8066
Mrs. Lil Lindsay Sachs
1412 Kathwood Drive
Columbia, SC 29206, 803-787-7916
Mrs. Jean Kearns Stansill
5907 Colchester Place
Charlotte, NC 28210, 704-554-8299

Converse Fund Class Chair:

Mrs. Frances Kirkwood Graham



I must say once again how much we missed those of you who were not here for our reunion. It was so good seeing each other and catching up. Of course, we all talked at once, so it's hard to remember all that we "caught up on." **Becky Ramsaur Pennell** and I had a great weekend in July with Lil **Lindsay Sachs** and Bill in Blowing Rock, NC. We were wine and dined, enjoyed the wonderful outdoor NC Symphony Concert, and met and enjoyed friends of **Jean Kearns Stansill** there from Charlotte, NC. Along with the Sachs, I attended the 50th wedding anniversary celebration of Roy and **Laura McLean Taylor** in Columbia, SC. It was such fun seeing Laura's sisters, their four children, and the 15 Taylor grandchildren. Becky, daughter Sally Pennell Chambers '79, and her son, Alex, enjoyed a trip to the new house of Becky's son Patrick on the Piankatank River in Virginia. While visiting her daughter, Peg Stansill, in Cary, NC, Jean drove to Goldsboro, NC, to spend the day with **Alice Sylvester Cox** and Jim and was joined by **Annette Edgerton Brothers**. She did not get to see **Charlene Tribble Winslow** as Charlene was at the beach with her family. My favorite trips are to see my grandchildren although it was a little difficult this summer as they were all over the world. Of my eight grandchildren, four were in foreign countries and one in Idaho: Bill Bouton in Chile, Mary Bouton in London, Katie Egan in Belize, Jack Egan in Costa Rica, and Michael Egan working in Sun Valley, Idaho. I have an adventurous group but I am so blessed! I also pray a lot!

CLASS OF 1954

50th Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2004

Representative:

Mrs. Bet Shepherd Ancrum



35 Honeysuckle Woods
Lake Wylie, SC 29710, 803-831-0205
E-mail: bancrum@bellsouth.net

Converse Fund Class Chairs:

Mrs. Nancy Sibley Dunn
Ms. Frances Owen McDaniel
Mrs. Mildred Roberts Robard



Heads up, classmates! The Class of 1953 - our "ratters," yet! - reached 60% class participation for their 50th class reunion, and you KNOW we can do better'n they did! Dig deep in the coming year, and turn this into the best class fund-raiser ever. That being said, let's get on with our plans: we will become "Golden Girls" the weekend of April 23-25, 2004, and you'll want to be part of the fun. Anybody have addresses for some of the more elusive buddies? We want to be sure everyone is included. Think about this: you are one of the lucky ones if you made it this far; some of our class didn't. Think how much richer our lives are for having known them, and come celebrate their lives - and our own. Besides our class meeting and our own class dinner, there will be an all-classes party, an awards luncheon, and if we're lucky some of you musically talented classmates will step forward and be a part of the Alumnae Recital to celebrate the occasion and make us proud. Call your special friends NOW, and tell them to save April 23-25! Details to follow via mailings, and you'll have to wait for class news until then.

CLASS OF 1956

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2006

Representatives:

Mrs. Ida Rose Bruton Dillon
4751 Blair Court
Winston-Salem, NC 27104, 336-765-4084
Rev. Carolyn Byers Brockwell
2108 Coley Forest Place
Raleigh, NC 27607, 919-787-5963
E-mail: cbdb78@nc.rr.com

Converse Fund Class Chair:

Mrs. Bettie Jane Woodward Grant



I was certainly delighted to receive a wonderful letter from **Patricia Vines Darnell** catching me up on her many travels and activities during these past couple of years. It seems that at our last reunion **Sunshine Connor Norwood** inspired Pat with tales of her fun African Safari experience, and Pat convinced husband Bob that it was now time to "just do it." So, along with another couple, they set out on a three-week African Safari in Kenya that also included visits to Nairobi, Johannesburg, and Capetown. She

enthusiastically recommends such a trip for all of her fellow classmates! Pat also reported on trips to Cancun and Cabo San Lucas in Mexico and St. Croix as well as a wonderful week with eight family members and grandchildren aboard a houseboat on the St. John’s River in Florida. (That was probably the more challenging experience!) She is still enjoying teaching piano in her home studio and singing in a large Baptist Church choir. There was one sad note that I need to include. Her brother died suddenly this past July, and we all send her our condolences. Many thanks to all who participated in the Converse Annual Fund. We ended up in second place in percentage of class giving. Not bad for the Class of ‘56! A great deal of appreciation needs to go to **B.J. Woodward Grant** for all her efforts in this endeavor. Also, I know we want to express thanks to B.J. for the brick she donated in honor of the Class of ‘56. That was certainly a most thoughtful thing to do! Please send letters over the Christmas season. We’d like so very much to have news to share in the next issue of the *Converse Bulletin*.

CLASS OF 1957

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2007

Representatives:

Mrs. Patsy Cox McMillan
530 Azalea Lane
Florence, SC 29501, 843-669-6094
Mrs. Sylvia Craver Gandy
283 Molasses Lane
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464, 843-884-4001

Converse Fund Class Chairs:

Ms. Carolyn Fulmer Alexander
Mrs. Jane Powell Crowder
Ms. Mary Lib Spillers Hamilton



Elaine Finklea Folline ‘58 invited me to her Book Club not too long ago. I was delighted to see Katherine Ryan Stribling ‘58 and **Amy Edmunds Bramlett**. Amy’s daughter, Frances, had the program which turned out to be a wine tasting! Frances used to be a wine rep, but now owns a health food store, Just Fresh, near the Charleston Aquarium. The program was so interesting and informative and Frances is adorable. Sylvia and I got together for lunch with **Ruth Gray Wheliss** again this year. We all enjoyed sharing news about our grandchildren. Sylvia had a week at Litchfield with her new twin grandsons and her three older ones. Fun—but exhausting! Ruth has two grandchildren, a boy and a girl. They enjoy visiting Ruth and Joe at their Litchfield retreat. I traveled to Disney World with my son and daughter-in-law and three grandsons. To quote my son, “Disney World is fun, but it’s WORK!” News from **Dottie Comyns Berg** in Granbury, TX, indicates that she is a writer of fiction and prose. She is a

member of Granbury’s Writers Bloc and has selected two of her prose for the annual yearbook. No other news from anyone. I know we are all having our 50th high school reunions. If you run into any Converse girls there, get their news. Also Christmas is coming, so write.

CLASS OF 1958

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2008

Representatives:

Mrs. Jack (Elaine Finklea) Folline
740 Kilbourne Road
Columbia, SC 29205, 803-254-9503
Mrs. Bud (Nancy Hayes) Wilkerson
2122 Norton Road
Charlotte, NC 28207, 704-376-4776
Converse Fund Class Chair:
Ms. Mary Searle Rowland



This *Bulletin* and subsequent others will let us hear from those classmates returning their reunion questionnaires. For those of us who wanted to know what **Sallie McCrary Holmberg** hurt when she fell in Florida before the reunion, Sallie reports that she “busted” her mouth, and her Tampa dentist now has a new wing in his office complex, courtesy of Sallie. Back to normal again, she and Bruce (now retired) spent the fall in North Carolina and were to return to see the Florida dentist in November. Son Jim and his wife enjoy their grandson in Barbados; son Mark finished Johnson and Wales, settling in Fort Lauderdale, FL. **Mary Easterby Satterfield** writes from Zirconia, NC that Neal has retired and they are living in the mountains. PeeWee volunteers as president of the Friends of Carl Sandburg at Connemara (where grandparents take grandchildren to pet the goats) and she is past president of the Lake Summit Property Owners Association. She and Neal have two sons: Andrew attended the University of Georgia and University of South Carolina Law School and Thomas studied at Western Carolina. **Sarah E. Lobban** writes from Alderson, WV that she has been retired for 11 years from teaching in Falls Church and Arlington, VA where she now enjoys visiting. Did you know she earned a master’s from Duke in the 60’s? Sarah spent a number of years caring for her mother who passed away just before our reunion. When I called with condolences late this summer, Sarah had just returned from a trip to Branson, MO, where she saw four shows in a day and a half! We are sorry to hear that **Corrie Jean Miller Whitlock** died in September after a long bout with cancer. A volunteer with the Spartanburg City Planning Commission for 11 years, Corrie also was past president of the Spartanburg Arts Council. She was awarded South Carolina’s Order of the Palmetto, and at the May commencement at

Converse, she received the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award. There is a covered walkway at Spartanburg’s Hatcher Garden named Corrie’s Bridge in her honor.

CLASS OF 1959

45th Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2004

Representatives:

Mrs. Anne Argo Sanders
1045 Woodburn Road
Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-585-2968
E-mail: argo@argoco.com
Mrs. Jane Torkington White
4607 177th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98006, 425-562-0787
Converse Fund Class Chair:
Mrs. Sally Mason Maynard



For this issue I, Jayne Callaham Burton, am subbing for **Jane Torkington White** who is busy cruising and cycling with husband Buddy. I ran into **Jane Clark Wasson** last February at Surfside Beach, SC, where she is working part-time at a custom outdoor furniture store. She and husband Jimmy moved to Myrtle Beach several years ago and love it. My husband, Tom, and I met them for dinner and had a great time catching up. Later that week, Tom and I visited friends in Charleston, SC, for the Southeastern Wildlife Show and were able to see **Aimee Reece Kornegay** and her daughter. Aimee and I rediscovered each other last year when out of the blue she sent me a fabulous cookbook, ‘*Pon Top Edisto: Cookin’ Tweenst the Rivers*, from her Episcopal church at Edisto Beach. We have been in close contact via E-mail and phone ever since. **Marigene Player Simmons** E-mailed that a really big event took place at the Lake Lure Inn, Lake Lure, NC over the 4th of July weekend when husband Mansfield celebrated a landmark birthday, complete with all of the family. News from **Carolyn Turner Kelly** indicated this year’s big event for them was the May wedding of their youngest child, Mary Sidney, to Harold Harbert, whose parents were the mission team leaders when Carolyn and Thad went to Cambodia and Indonesia to teach ESL in the summer of 2002. Carolyn’s former Converse roommate, **Mary Jane Pearce Holland** and husband Evans attended the wedding. Thad is working ‘half-time’ at UVA and golfing during his other ‘half-time.’ Carolyn has retired from teaching and devotes most of her time to church work, presently overseeing the renovation of major areas of the church grounds, including the memorial garden. **Betty Hawthorne Grymes’** youngest daughter, Anne Barringer, was married on June 28. Not to be outdone, Betty and Bobby celebrated their 41st anniversary on July 28! Oldest daughter, Elizabeth, and her husband live in Mt. Pleasant, SC, and have one

daughter age 3, a real ‘honey’ according to Grandma! Susan, daughter # 2, lives in Alexandria and is an attorney for Sutherland, Ashbille and Brennan of Washington and Atlanta. Betty is recovering from lumbar fusion surgery which she had in January and is doing much better. She attended the baptism in July of the second grandchild of our late classmate, **Grace Mercer Ginn**. An E-mail from **Rosann Ferguson Hooks** indicated she is still getting settled after her husband’s death last September. She stays busy as a volunteer interviewer at her church’s food pantry and is a member of the wedding guild, helping with rehearsals and weddings. She is also active in other volunteer organizations and is staying healthy and supple by taking aerobics classes. Kudos to her for doing so much volunteer work—a wonderful way to heal and to give to others. Fourteen of the Dexter third floor ‘59ers—**Sally Mason Maynard, Jo Phelps Fabian, Janie Lee Robinson Banks, Tag Siddall Johnson, Sarah Swicegood Davis, Joan Madden, Betty Hawthorne Grymes, Carolyn Turner Kelly, Marigene Player Simmons, Aimee Reece Kornegay, Jane Clark Wasson, Jane Torkington White, Rosann Ferguson Hooks, and Jayne Callaham Burton**—purchased two bricks for the Phifer Science Hall walkway. They are inscribed: Dexter Dames, Third Floor, Class of 1959. Sadly one of our group, Sarah Swicegood Davis, passed away in June. The remaining 13 of us purchased another brick in Sarah’s memory. A not so gentle reminder, our 45th (where did the time go?) reunion is April 23-25, 2004. Tork volunteered to make motel arrangements for all of us ‘59ers, so please contact her. To get into the spirit of the upcoming reunion, do you remember ‘our song’—“We are the ‘59ers and you’ll never see us down, for we are the class that will always be renowned. We’ve got the best of spirit and enthusiasm, too; there is no class that we cannot out-do! WE’RE THE BEST!” Let’s show ‘em we are the best by attending our 45th! Hope to see all of you ‘59ers April 23-25, 2004!

CLASS OF 1960

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2005

Representative:

Mrs. Donna Culbertson Fritz
105 Sunline Place
Spartanburg, SC 29307, 864-579-3986
E-mail: maximum1983@cs.com
Converse Fund Class Chair:
Mrs. Donna Culbertson Fritz



Jackie Dunn Soule writes that she is staying busy keeping up with the families of her four children and still playing the organ at Wythe Presbyterian Church. She did retire from her church position after 30 years but plans to

continue to play the organ there until next spring. Her husband, Jack, retired from NASA in 1998 but still stays busy keeping up with Jackie and their family. News from **Barbara Bailey McBride** indicates she has two new grandchildren. Son Douglas and his wife, Jennifer, had a boy and live in Chicago. Daughter Deborah and her husband had a daughter and live in The Woodlands, TX. Please E-mail, call or write; it’s a great way to keep up with each other. Happy Holidays!

CLASS OF 1961

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2006

Representative:

Mrs. Betsy Blythe Frazer
324 Nottingham Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27517, 919-402-0409
E-mail: ebfrazer@earthlink.net
Converse Fund Class Chair:
Mrs. Josephine Carr Ussery



In August, **Boo Bargamin Kral** and Ted moved to Lake Jovita, a gated golf community about 35 miles north of Tampa, FL. Their daughter, Emilie, just had baby #3, Thomas Spencer Croakley, who joins William (4) and Ellie(2). **Mary Ada Ruff Poole** E-mailed that this semester she will be teaching two classes in the Converse Music School, a music education class and a strings methods class. She is still playing violin in several NC and SC orchestras, including Asheville, Hendersonville, Anderson, and Spartanburg. **Penny South Kosztolniyk’s** daughter, Elizabeth, stars in two independent films, which have recently been screened. The suspense drama, *Motive*, has been accepted to Sundance, and the other, *Quick Brown Fox*, is a 30 minute short in which she plays a speed typist in the ‘50’s. **Noni Miller Lurding** and husband Don have joined the ranks of the retired. A brief telephone conversation with **Peggy Wilson Schneider**, another Chapel Hill resident, caught her just as she was leaving for a retirement center, where she is teaching a man with a 3rd grade education to read. Hopefully there will be more from Peggy another time. Don and I took a “land safari” to Alaska last summer, flying in a six-seater plane to rather rustic Bear Camp, where we spent a day and a half watching grizzlies interact. A baby moose dropped in on a riverside picnic, without its mom, fortunately. We attended the Moose Dropping Festival in Talkeetna (don’t ask!). I took a ride in a cart pulled at breakneck speed by 13 huskies. We were among the 10% fortunate enough to have weather permitting a flight around Denali and a landing on a glacier. Among the other wildlife that we saw were bald eagles, puffins, common murrs, gray whales, porpoises, caribou, moose, and a red fox trotting along with its prey in its mouth. Response to my pleas has dropped off this

time, so you got to hear about my trip in detail. Please don’t forget to put me on your Christmas newsletter/card list or write, phone, or E-mail. Note I have a new E-mail address given in the heading.

CLASS OF 1962

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2007

Representatives:

Mrs. Dixie Crum Stone
9419 Owl Trace Drive
Chesterfield, VA 23838, 804-748-4755
E-mail: dixiestone@comcast.net
Mrs. Mareon Chapman Stall
125 Kellett Park Drive
Greenville, SC 29607, 864-288-2447
E-mail: baldstall@earthlink.net
Converse Fund Class Chair:
Mrs. Mareon Chapman Stall



If you need a “pick-me-up”, just call **Dell Grace Schroeder** in San Diego! She is as full of life now as she was in our Converse days. Dell just made her debut as saxophone soloist with the San Diego Concert Band in June. In addition to the sax, she plays flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba and lots of percussion. Dell teaches 45 youth a week in her studio and for 15 years, has run “Band Camp at the Beach” for 60-80 youth. Dell’s husband, Cart, is a stock and insurance broker and consults for businesses that are expanding or downsizing. Their house and garden were featured in a garden tour this past summer. Dell also volunteers (in memory of **Anne Lynne Holcombe Chapman**) for the American Cancer Society’s Discovery Shop. **Mary Louise Chandler Kilroy** and husband Jay have been blessed with their first grandchild, Reagan Claire Kilroy (1), the daughter of Jay, Jr. and his wife, Amy. They live in Reston, VA, and Jay works in McLean with a money management firm, Abingdon Capital Funds. Mary Louise and Jay, Sr.’s daughter, Kathryn, now lives in New York City and is Director of Recruiting for a large New York law firm. Jay, Sr. continues to work, running his own Edward Jones Investments office in Charlotte, NC. He and Mary Louise spent two weeks this past July visiting Ireland and especially enjoyed touring the beautiful country since both of them have Irish ancestors. Mary Louise enjoys working one day a week at a gift shop in Charlotte, visiting their children and spending time at their summer place in Blowing Rock, NC. Last fall, she enjoyed several days visiting **Dottie Henderson Wise** at her mountain home in Highlands, NC. Also there were classmates **Julie Blackwood McNeill, Terrell Cook McMillan** and Bonita “Sister” Padgett McLaurin ‘60. In July, Terrell and Frank spent two weeks on a river cruise in Russia from Moscow to St. Petersburg. Frank travels a lot with his work as an auditor for the American

Bureau of Shipping. Terrell continues to be very active in her church and in a school volunteer program and enjoys playing bridge and walking. Daughter Nancy blessed Terrell and Frank with their third granddaughter, Hannah Marie, born in May, 2003. Nancy and husband Tommy Clark live in Mannford, OK, and have two other daughters, ages five and three. Terrell and Frank's younger daughter, Ellen, continues to pursue her career as a professional model. She lives in Dallas and does a lot of work there as well as in Los Angeles and San Francisco. **Georgianna Hayes Ballenger** and husband Harold spent three months in New York City this year. They lived in a garden apartment in Brooklyn and spent their free time enjoying the city. Their view was of the Statue of Liberty and the Wall Street area across the East River. They became part of the congregation at a wonderful church, fell in love with the beautiful brownstones and made the most of their opportunity for exciting ventures. Both of Georgianna's children live in Spartanburg. Michael is with Contec and Jennifer is in the corporate office of Extended Stay America. Continuing to live in Myrtle Beach, SC, are **Beulah Gatewood Butler** and her husband Gene, a semi-retired cardiologist. They both love to travel and truly take exciting trips! Within the past two years they have been hiking around Lake Como in Italy and have gone on a safari in Namibia, South West Africa! Beulah's daughter, Melissa Rusty, and husband Alfred live in New Orleans where he practices law. Their house was featured on HGTV in October 2003. Melissa and Alfred have three daughters, Olivia (6), Lilly (5), and Adair (1 1/2). Beulah's son Scott and her grandson, Addison (6), live in Myrtle Beach, SC. Gene's three sons and seven grandchildren also live there. Beulah and Gene say they would love to hear from any of us who vacation at the Grand Strand.

CLASS OF 1963

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2008

Representatives:

Ms. Peggy Rainwater
1228 N. Carolina Avenue NE
Washington, DC 20002, 202-544-4396
E-mail: prainwater@rendon.com
Mrs. Betty "Boopie" Poole Rose
1002 Vance Street
Raleigh, NC 27608, 919-834-8270
E-mail: rose1793@bellsouth.net
Mrs. Emily Kerr Stay
9619 Pekin Road
Novelty, OH 44072, 440-338-8221
E-mail: estay@aol.com

Converse Fund Class Chair:

Vacant



Several classmates who were unable to attend alumnae weekend in April

completed the alumnae reunion questionnaire. We share that news, now. **Dottie Myers McGirt** writes that she is busy with United Way and has volunteered for a variety of civic programs. **Ann Crouch De Blasio** retired from her elementary school teaching career at the end of the school year so that she could travel with her husband, Richard, manager of the National Reusable Energy Laboratory. During a trip to Washington, DC, Ann enjoyed lunch with **Ann Waters Westbrook** and they shared wonderful memories of Converse. Son Rich was married last September. Daughter Libby, a second year law student, spent the summer of '03 in a clerkship in Washington, DC. **Jenna Ward Curtis** has moved to Winston-Salem, NC, and was still going through boxes as she completed the questionnaire. She says, "Happily, this is a wonderful town. My children are having children, and I am the extremely proud grandmother of four grandsons, each of whom is brilliant and handsome, of course. My obvious bias!" **Genevieve Steele Cummings** shares that both of her children are happily married and she is grandmother of one. **Caroline "Gibbie" Scott Walters** reports that all three daughters are educated and married with careers of their own. The proud grandmother of four, she retired to the mountains and loves every minute of it. I spoke with **Yvonne Noggle Gold** in September to get updated information on the expected birth of twin granddaughters. Ivy Julia and Alice Carrington Sharp, identical twins, arrived safely on July 15, 2003. The total grandchild count is now three. **Penny Roberts Rose** continues her musical interests in Hilton Head, SC, as a board member of the Hilton Head Orchestra. She is principal flute with the same orchestra and is a member of Music Teachers National Association, treasurer of the local chapter. She is also a member of the American Guild of Organists. **Nell Higdon Hudson** serves on the Historic Columbus Foundation Board as well as on various committees at Trinity Episcopal Church in Columbus, GA. **Harriett Ziegler Christian** enjoys retirement with her husband, who has become quite a fisherman. Her daughter Sally and four-year-old granddaughter live near Chapel Hill, NC. Son John was married in the fall. Three of our classmates received recognition recently. **Lyn Sauter Little** and husband Frank of Winnetka, IL were honored by the Music Institute of Chicago with the fourth annual Millennium Award in recognition of their contribution to the arts and education. **Mary Nicholson** was awarded the Lifetime Service Award of the South Carolina Theatre Association. This award recognizes long-standing service to the field and significant contributions to theatre in South Carolina. **Wallace Eppes Johnson** was the recipient of the 2003 David Reid Award for Excellence in the Arts, which recognizes a lifetime of volunteer contributions to the arts community of

Spartanburg. Each of the class representatives expects to hear from all of you so that our next issue is filled with more news from the Class of '63. Respectfully submitted by your representative from Ohio, **Emily Kerr Stay**.

CLASS OF 1964

40th Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2004

Representatives:

Mrs. Henrietta Hughes Ouzts
805 13th Avenue NW
Hickory, NC 28601, 828-324-2893
E-mail: peterouzs@hotmail.com
Mrs. Anne Mayo Elliott
116 Pineville Road
Spartanburg, SC 29307, 864-583-7982
E-mail: ellam@charter.net

Converse Fund Class Chairs:

Mrs. Righton Hodgkin McCallum
Ms. Caroline Watts Morris



Eight special friends from the Class of '64, representing four states, gathered at a farmhouse in the Umbria/Tuscany region of Italy the first week in June. **Sarah Miller McDaniel, Liz Harkins Biosca, Judy Fessey Bradley, Sally Riddle Marsh, Sandy Pickens Wagner, Ellen Holmes Gramling, Becky Peeler Parsons, and B Kennedy Durham** had an extraordinary time together visiting nearby hilltowns, shopping, and having a cooking class, all in the midst of continous laughter and fun! The group continued on to Sicily for five more days after leaving the farmhouse. B planned the time together through her business, Sophisticated Travelers; everyone claimed we were the most "sophisticated Converse travelers." We are all forever grateful to Converse for having begun our special relationships 40 years ago. News from **Maude Patton Cantrell** indicated she is retired from teaching deaf and hard of hearing students in Charlotte, NC, after 32 years. She has three grandchildren age 3 and younger. **Caroline Watts Morris** is included in the National Register's *Who's Who in Executives and Professionals* 2004-2005 edition. She is administrative assistant of Greenville County Courthouse. We hope you are making plans for our 40th reunion April 23-25, 2004. Make certain that date is on your calendar-we'll be sending more details after the holidays.

CLASS OF 1965

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2005

Representative:

Mrs. Marjorie Martin Pierce
210 Ramblewood Drive
Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-658-1254
E-mail: spierce@esn.net

Converse Fund Class Chair:

Mrs. Kathleen Cohen Willard



A malfunctioning E-mail system, six weeks in an air cast for a sprained ankle, and Hurricane Isabel have wreaked havoc for the Class of 1965 holiday column. Through the good graces of our town library, I have been able to receive E-mail, but alas, there have been no reports, gossip, or rumors from our classmates. My good news is the July 11th birth of our second grandchild, Alexandra Heston Cinquemani. I send best wishes to you and yours for a merry holiday and look forward to your newsy Christmas cards.

CLASS OF 1966

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2006

Representatives:

Mrs. Millie Gold Moore
213 Silver Moss Drive
Vero Beach, FL 32963, 772-492-6722
E-mail: MLMillie@msn.com
Mrs. Barbara Nelson Yergens
PO Box 1080
4127 Serenity Mountain Road
Waynesville, NC 28786, 828-454-5054
E-mail: byergens@aol.com

Converse Fund Class Chair:

Mrs. Kathryn Aderholdt Portwood



It was great fun catching up a bit with **Edith Hamilton Kuhnle** who lives in Washington, DC, where Hurricane Isabel had passed through the previous night. She was one of the fortunate ones with power but was concerned about their place at the river full of old, old trees. As I think most of you know, Edith is a successful and well known artist and was to have had a show at Converse in September 2003. The event has been moved up a year to September 2004, and Edith said "please tell them to come next September for my show at the college." She describes her paintings as somewhat abstract with a lot of botanical references. One reason for the change was that both of Edith and John's daughters got married in the last year. Daughter Catherine and her husband live in Boston and attend architectural school there. Daughter Edie fell in love with a Norwegian from the same town as John's grandmother and married him eight months after Catherine's wedding. Edith and John have enjoyed being back on campus and John's executive search firm actually was instrumental in finding President Nancy Gray. Thank you, John! Now we have a few months to plan to return to Converse for Edith's show. We'll get the exact dates by the next *Bulletin*. In April 2003 **Janet Duff**

O'Kelley and husband Leon became proud first time grandparents to Sara Leighton Kennerly, daughter of Brian and Holle O'Kelley Kennerly '93. Happy Holidays to all from Barbara and yours truly. By the way, I have sold my home in Winston-Salem, NC, and have moved to John's Island, Vero Beach, FL. My new address information is given above. Please write and come visit. My daughter Kate is expecting her second child at Thanksgiving and I'll be there in Elizabeth, CO, near Denver. Please let us hear from you!

CLASS OF 1967

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2007

Representatives:

Mrs. Sandra Jones Husted
11 Vance Street
Lexington, NC 27292, 336-248-4934
E-mail: rlhusted@lexcominc.net
Mrs. Marsha Sams Thrift
2898 Monticello Drive
Winston-Salem, NC 27106, 336-723-3748
E-mail: mthrift@triad.rr.com

Converse Fund Class Chairs:

Mrs. Martha Shields Horton
Mrs. C. Langdon Cheves, Jr.



Our plea for class news was not as successful as we had wished. We did hear from several of you and your news was most appreciated. Do keep us in mind when you are sending those Christmas letters. Many thanks to **Lucia Cleveland Johnson** for her long, newsy E-mail. Lucia and husband Rick ran another successful camp season at Camp WinShape on the campus of Berry College. In addition they moved into a wonderful new home in Cedartown, GA, where the golfing is perfect! Like many of us, Lucia was looking forward to enjoying her 40th high school reunion this past spring. Lucia and Rick especially enjoy football season as Brad Johnson, the Tampa Bay quarterback, is Rick's son! **Nancy McCall Poyner** wrote that she took the Master Gardeners course this past winter and thoroughly enjoyed it. Their class project was revitalizing the back yard of an Episcopal retirement home and she felt the whole experience was quite meaningful. Nancy has also spent time cleaning out and sent several pictures of our "dorm days." What fun it was to see us as we once were! **Ann Armour McCoy** retired from teaching 2nd grade in northern Virginia and immediately headed south to Ocala, FL, where she is in the process of building a house. In the meantime she has been spending her free time traveling out west in beautiful Colorado. A lost 2002 Christmas letter from **Elvy Talley Bryan** appeared in my Converse basket just in time for this edition. Elvy continues to call Morganton home. She enjoys time with her mom who she says keeps her busy. When not working with her mom on projects, she plays

the organ, gardens, and plays golf. She also enjoys visiting her son Tab and his wife, Ashley, in her old hometown of Beaumont, TX. **Jenny Kimbrel Bunn** hosted a lovely alumnae cocktail party last spring that was attended by the Winston-Salem area classmates: **Sandra Jones Husted, Brooks Sanders Hamilton, Marsha Sams Thrift, and Becky Gould Gibson**. All of us had a grand time and were very impressed and encouraged by President Gray's comments. **Anne Randolph Bennett** made it through Hurricane Isabel without major damage. She reports it was a bit difficult to be without power for a week. Hopefully 2004 will bring us more news. Keep in touch.

CLASS OF 1968

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2008

Representative:

Mrs. Barbara Baker Kennedy
4400 Dewees Court
Raleigh, NC 27612, 919-782-9459
E-mail: barbarabebek@msn.com

Converse Fund Class Chair:

Vacant



"Recycle, Reflect, and Reinvent"-more news from our reunion. **Patricia Mooney Parker** returned to New York having lived and studied with her conductor husband in Russia for the last two years. She has had a fabulous career on Broadway and "off Broadway" and still maintains a vocal studio. She returned to her first Converse reunion this spring and loved it! **Louise Kelley Diehl** and husband Lon have returned from China where they have worked for SIL International since 1983. She says they will return soon but are enjoying being in Texas with her two grown children. **Nancy Beasley Meldram** and husband are in Atlanta, GA. He just started a new business doing renovation work and Nancy is selling real estate after teaching French forever. She loves to exercise and spends lots of time with their two dogs, a lab and greyhound. **Caroline G. Grimbball** is living in Columbia, SC, where she works for Aramark Corporation as retail manager/buyer for the gift shops at the Riverbanks Zoo. She says you haven't lived until you have entertained the 4000 children a day who visit. She has three gift shops on site and 25 employees. **Dorrie Duke Keller, Cindy Archibald Purcell, and Leslie Clark Randolph** carpooled to Spartanburg, reporting what a great time they had on the road and at the reunion. Dorrie has started a horseback riding club called the Trailblazers consisting of 52 families who ride every weekend. Leslie is doing lots of volunteer work and enjoying her grown children, both attorneys. **Ann Dukes Cater** has cycled since graduating and recently completed a mini

RUSSELL HOLLIDAY '71

A love of nature and a desire to do something for her native Galivants Ferry (SC) motivated Russell Holliday '71 to take the lead role in the renovation of Brookgreen Cottage. "I wanted to help Brookgreen because they reflect my love of nature and the outdoors, and have done such a good job in preserving SC's heritage," said Russell. On July 19, the former cottage reopened as the Russell Holliday Cottage at Brookgreen Gardens.

Located between Myrtle Beach and Pawley's Island, Brookgreen is the country's oldest and largest sculpture garden, and features a number of historical and cultural exhibits that reveal the distinctive life and land of Lowcountry Carolina.

The original 3-bedroom cottage has been completely renovated and will now be used for events such as conferences, meetings, and weddings. The garage is now a catering kitchen; the master bedroom a library; and the breakfast nook is now a proper meeting room. Russell said that the cottage looks homey while still appropriate for professional purposes. "It feels more like you're in someone's home, sitting in their dining room," she said.

Russell says her decision to spearhead the renovation was influenced by her father, John Monroe Holliday, who gave generously to The Citadel before his death in October 2000. "He was so excited about giving to The Citadel," she recalls, "and they named a building after him." He died five weeks later, she said, "and that made me realize that if I'm going to give, I want to give while I'm young enough to enjoy the fruition of whatever I decide to give to."

triathlon with a field of 400, coming in second in her age group. She is selling radio time in Chattanooga and has a son at Clemson.

CLASS OF 1969

35th Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2004

Representatives:

- Ms. Ashley Fine Nagle
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Media, PA 19063, 610-565-4483
E-mail: avfnagle@quixnet.net
 - Mrs. Harriet Messer Goldsmith
121 Rockingham Road
Greenville, SC 29607, 864-277-4893
E-mail: maghmg@aol.com
 - Mrs. Charlotte Smith Purrington
2723 Riddick Drive
Raleigh, NC 27609, 919-781-3142
E-mail: cspurring@aol.com
- Converse Fund Class Chairs:
Mrs. Linda Russell Cranford
Mrs. Harriet Messer Goldsmith



I received a wonderful card from **Beverly White Spicer** who is living in Austin, TX. Beverly received her master's in architecture from the University of Texas and has written a book, *The Ka'bah: Rhythms of Culture, Faith and Physiology*, which has been published by University Press (www.univpress.com and search catalog). In 2001, Beverly gave a talk to the "Ideas and Culture" Seminar at Converse and writes that she loved being back on the campus and seeing the wonderful renovations and gorgeous grounds. **Kathrine Clewis Miller** writes that she is once again in the classroom teaching 7-12 grades math at the Donoho School in Anniston, AL. Husband Ron is a retired high school principal and is now writing murder mystery novels and restoring antiques cars. I am looking forward to the holidays and all the wonderful, newsy cards that I will receive from classmates. (Please do not let me down!) As we head towards our 35th reunion it is really important that we stay in touch! I am excited about hearing from all of you and seeing you in April. Harriet

CLASS OF 1971

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2006

Representatives:

- Mrs. Jane Byrd Melton
4012 Bienvenue Drive
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E-mail: janemelton@triad.rr.com
- Mrs. Dee Dellastatious Myers
1645 Queens Road West
Charlotte, NC 28207, 704-333-6498
E-mail: jmyers1@carolina.rr.com
- Mrs. Mindy Thompson Orman
1040 Gateway Lane
Nashville, TN 37220, 615-373-5965
E-mail: ormanphoto@comcast.net

Converse Fund Class Chair:
Vacant



Much news from **Sarah Levi Smith**. She has been on a six-day mission trip to Russia and also to London. Sarah also reports that **Susan Sturm Bauer** became a grandmother in May to a granddaughter. She also saw **Leila Cottingham Thorne** in Colorado Springs in May and gets E-mail jokes often from **Anne Gooch Culley**. **Annie Bailes Brown** writes that her younger son, Bailes, is a freshman at Harvard. In December Annie will be the mother-of-the-groom as older son Will gets married. **Ann Page Hamrick** was selected teacher of the year for 2002-03 at West View Elementary School in Spartanburg County. Hope everyone got my orange post cards and will write soon. — Byrd

CLASS OF 1973

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2008

Representative:

- Mrs. Emily Jones Rushing
1613 Woodridge Place
Birmingham, AL 35216, 205-823-3447
E-mail: emilyjonesrushing@hotmail.com

Converse Fund Class Chair:
Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor Horres



Birmingham has been a busy place in recent months, including a visit from **Cynthia Adams Tappan**. She stopped by for a couple of nights to visit her oldest daughter Brinkley, now a second-year law student at Penn, who spent the summer working at a Birmingham law firm. Cynthia has retired as a fulltime math teacher and is enjoying her work as a math tutor and freelance harpist in Pensacola. See where a psychology degree will take you? I hope to see some other local classmates, including **Sarah Maring Van Os**, at the fall Converse alumnae event. Sarah has been teaching elementary school for a number of years and watching with husband Floris as their daughter Antonia grows into a lovely young woman. Future Converse material perhaps? Other news from our classmates comes by way of questionnaires filled out at reunion time: **Anne Osborne Long** reported on her four children and their busy schedules, including plenty of time playing sports. Anne herself has developed a passion for golf, thanks in part to her husband Leonard's work in developing golf courses in South Carolina and Ireland (!). **Sharon Amos Shealy** has worked 14 years as a real estate agent in Winston-Salem, NC, but takes time to enjoy trips with husband Ronnie to Charleston, SC, where son Chip and daughter Lindy are both living and working. **Jan Jones Ward** and husband Paul are in Macon, GA, where Jan is

doing a lot of volunteer work after retiring. Her oldest daughter Jennifer married recently and now lives in Birmingham. AL (I'll have to find her and say hello.) **Elizabeth Taylor Horres** was mother of the bride in August when her daughter, Jamye '95, was married in Charleston, SC. **Cynthia Seabrook** was in attendance as well. Now, what about the rest of you? Take the easy way out and send me an E-mail update.

CLASS OF 1975

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2005

Representative:

- Mrs. Avan Yates Moore
1894 Ferry Lake Road
Tifton, GA 31794, 229-387-7917
E-mail: aymoore@friendlycity.net

Converse Fund Class Chairs:
Ms. Elise Warren
Ms. Melanie Smith Kearse



Congratulations to so many of you for sending a lot of interesting news my way. I have decided this is really a fun job since I never know from whom an E-mail might appear. It is my pleasure to pass it on to you. I had a wonderful surprise when I heard from **Martha Zachry Lever**. She was full of news! First to update you on her children: daughter Macaulay graduated last year from Presbyterian College where she was an Alpha Delta Pi and is now working in Atlanta, GA, as a home mortgage consultant at Wells Fargo. Son, Zachry is a Sigma Nu (another of those like father, like son duos) at Wofford. He is a junior and has a band that plays not only at Wofford but played all over Charleston, SC this past summer. Martha, we want to know the name of his band so our Charleston friends can listen out for them! Another exciting thing Martha told me was about her career as an artist. It seems her talent was kept under wraps while at Converse but she now has a successful business called Martha Lever Lettering and Design. Her artwork can be seen in Christian stores all over the country. You can see for yourself by going to her website: www.marthalever.com. She also reports that **Jane Webber Smith** has not changed a bit and they were planning to get together at Jane's beautiful mountain home in Saluda, NC. I hear **Beth Taylor** is doing well in Columbus and Martha keeps up with her when she goes home to West Point. Now that you know I'm in Tifton, Martha, don't forget to call on your way through and thanks for all the news. **Sandy Kopp McNutt** wrote that she had visited **Robin Richards Hutchison** in her gorgeous home in Chapel Hill, NC. She had dinner with Robin and her daughter Catherine. Robin recently spent a weekend at the beach with **Louise Malloy Bonner**. I know ya'll had a ball if you had half as much fun as I did when I visited **Ruthie McCutchen Knight** during the summer. We started laughing when I got off the plane and never stopped for three days! Her husband

Bud not only put up with us, but also joined the party for fear he would miss something. While there, I had a chance to visit with **Robin Colyer New** and **Polly Ann Maxwell Cleveland** too. We all visited in Ruthie's beautiful home and completely forgot we were grown ups turning 50. P.A. entertained us with her dog stories (ask her!?) and Robin has taken up fly fishing. When I returned home, Ruthie was thoughtful enough to send me an outstanding article from the Spartanburg paper about **Berry Bate**. She was commissioned by George Dean Johnson, CEO of Extended Stay America, to sculpt a huge copper palmetto tree to stand atop the fountain outside the company's headquarters in downtown Spartanburg. To quote Mr. Johnson, "We hired Berry Bate because she is a Converse graduate. We have admired her work at several places." In addition to this notoriety, Berry is the chief ironwork sculptor for Biltmore Estate. She has also done restoration work at Nathaniel Russell House and Market Hall in Charleston, SC. Berry, we are proud you are our classmate and can't wait to see this work of art. I also had a chance to visit with **Libby McKnight Engler** and her husband Doug while at Sea Island this summer. She was sweet enough to invite us over to her family's gorgeous vacation home there. If we all want to pretend that no time has passed since we graduated, just go see Libby and Doug because they are just the same. They don't look a bit different. We had a wonderful but too short a time catching up on each other's families. She says that **Jenny Cockfield Johnson** is living in Lake City and all is well. As for us, fall has gotten off to a fast start as we are involved in the college application process for our youngest son. We are in a holding pattern until he hears from Florida State. He is bound and determined to be a Seminole. Jimmy and I are planning a November trip to Barbados to celebrate our 50th birthdays. (We thought it would be less painful that way!) Have a great fall and don't forget me on your Christmas card list.

CLASS OF 1976

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2006

Representative:

- Mrs. Leah Colley Welty
24 Briarwood Terrace
Fairmont, WV 26554, 304-367-0344
E-mail: workoutleah@ma.rr.com

Converse Fund Class Chair:
Vacant



Can you believe **Margaret Newton Waterstradt** and Bill are back in Spartanburg? He is the Senior Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. President Nancy Gray attends church there along with **Libba Moore Glenn**, **Sally Mahony White**, who is in charge of the Day School, and numerous other Converse alumnae. The new science and technology building going up at Converse is gorgeous; Margaret said we need

to see it. She is very impressed with the leadership of President Gray and says Converse is stronger than ever. She said the Nu-Way Lounge (which looks the same) still has the best ice tea, along with, of course, the Beacon. There was a lot of laughing, story telling and drinking frozen drinks this summer at the home of **Meredith Rawles** and her daughter, Hannah. **Dabney Hunter McKenzie** picked me up at the Atlanta airport and we drove to Mernie's to join Margaret Waterstradt (who had driven from Gainesville). The next day **Christy Holliday Douglas** met us in downtown Charleston. The six of us went to Sticky Fingers for lunch and High Thymes on Sullivans Island for dinner. It was back to Mernie's for another all-nighter of talking and looking at pictures. Later in the summer Mernie met **Nancy Coggins** and her new husband and Christy and David Douglas for dinner on Sullivans Island. The next deadline is January 26, 2004. Please keep in touch during the holidays.

CLASS OF 1977

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2007

Representatives:

- Mrs. Chris Wood Lynn
124 Greenbriar Road
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- Mrs. Robbie Dana Reading
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Columbia, SC 29206, 803-782-2659
E-mail: mdr119@sc.rr.com

Converse Fund Class Chair:
Mrs. Pamela Ellis Hall



Hope all of you are well. If you have not been to Converse recently and seen new construction and renovation happening, GET OVER HERE! It is so exciting! Had a note from **Susie Beckham Jackson**, who is now teaching at Spartanburg High School. Susie was a winner in the SC Fiction project this year for her short story "A Feeling for the Piano" - loosely based at Converse! Daughter Kassie is a senior at PC; Suzanne is a junior in high school, busy with violin and tennis. Another woman of accomplishment is **Patti Solesby Foy**, who is the new president of the SC Music Educators Association. Patti is still teaching at Converse and doing a research project on the effects of the PACT tests on music education. Her twin sons are both in Columbia, one a recent graduate and the other finishing his degree requirements at USC. **Marshall Kirby** and wife **Rosemary Littlejohn Kirby** are still making music here as well. Marshall is the band coordinator at Spartanburg High School and Rosemary is teaching at E.P. Todd Elementary. Their son is a freshman at USC this year, playing in the Carolina band. Marshall says he is the only male band director with a degree from Converse. **Robbie Dana Reading** ran into **Lee Hicks Nunn** when they were dropping off

freshmen: Lee’s son, Robbie’s daughter. **Jean Parks Bunch** also has a freshman this year; son Parks is at Wofford and rooming with the son of Rachel Jackson Gandy ’76. Speaking of Jean, she was in Charlotte recently with the talented group who helped “spruce” the Belk lobby. **Holly Hitchens Sturm** joined the group for dinner in **Jane Boatwright Schwab**’s lovely new home. Then Jane, **Debbie Christiansen Anderson**, and **Susan Hull Dickerson** installed the new furniture, in time for returning students. I am sure they were bowled over! The renovation project is in memory of classmates **Debra Burt John** and **Becky Gilbert Chancellor**. Susan wrote that she attended a girls’ weekend in Destin, FL, coordinated by **Carol McGinnis Alexander**. **Harriet Wilson Newton**, **Prather Nielson Smith**, **Caroline Williams Sanders**, Jane, Jean, and Debbie were all there and ran into **Pam Grayson Baugh** and **Pud Talton Glover**. According to Susan, there was a great deal of picture sharing, laughter, and quite a few stories relived. **Leslie Scoles Provence** has added the title “Society Columnist” to her list of accomplishments. She is writing for the “Art of Fine Living” magazine of the *Greenville News*. She gets to go to some great parties! Her daughter Elizabeth is a junior in vocal performance at the Hartt School of Music in Connecticut. Son Hall is a junior at Christ School and an avid golfer. **Nezzie Smith Jeter** is an independent insurance agent and investment advisor in Mauldin. She has two children: daughter Chevy will graduate with a master’s in exercise science from USC in December and her son Brian is already gainfully employed! **Becky Koon** wins the busy summer award. She starred in a new play in Charlotte - Eleanor White made the trip to see it. That play closed on a Sunday and by Thursday Becky was in Blowing Rock, NC doing her one-woman show. She and her husband, Steve, have one daughter who got to sleep in her own bed 10 days out of the whole summer! **Mary Jane Simmons Candler** is in Atlanta, GA, with three children: Kit in 8th grade, Carolyn in 6th, and Tol in 3rd. She and Walker traveled to Martha’s Vineyard in June and had a relaxing time. **Mary Pearce Wilson** wrote that she is now in New Canaan, CT after 13 years of living in Asia. She spent the summer in Blowing Rock with husband Beau and daughters Frances (19, at USC) and Katherine (7th grade). **Katherine Graves King** was married in June to Jim Goodrich on St. John, BVI. They are in the San Francisco area where Kat is a nurse-midwife. Son Collier is at the College of Charleston and son Hamilton is at the University of Montana, where he hopes to make a major out of snowboarding. Please keep Robbie and me on your Christmas card list. The next deadline is January 26, 2004.

CLASS OF 1979

25th Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2004

Representatives:

Mrs. Hunter McClintock Bell
209 Harvest Lane
Greenwood, SC 29649, 864-223-0006
E-mail: bell@emeraldis.com;

Mrs. Cecilia Lowry Stevenson
123 Union Street
Camden, SC 29020, 803-432-1889
E-mail: camdentire@charter.net
Converse Fund Class Chair:
Mrs. Cecilia France Arthur



Greetings! News from **Sarah Mercer Tinnon** indicates she now has a sales position with Digitel Corporation selling the Nortel Networks telephone systems. She also has several national/regional commercials running-Aspercreme, O’Charley’s Restaurant, Do-It-Yourself Network, and Food Lion. Received a wonderful letter from **Margaret Horne Darr** in Spartanburg. Margaret and Ken have three children and are not happy that they are growing up! Rebecca is a freshman at Clemson loving everything about college. Kirk, a high school senior, experienced a great trip last summer to Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji with the Spartan High orchestra. He and Rebecca are also active in Young Life. Son Andrew is in the 9th grade and lives on the golf course according to Margaret. He also participates in the middle school Young Life group called Wyld Life. Margaret is sure that her older children have connected with other Converse alumnae children as they travel to Colorado and other places for camp. Margaret reports that she had a delightful visit with **Leesa Land Ray** last summer and heard that **Jane Clutter Hardin** is living in Rock Hill, SC. She sees **Nancy Bain Coté** and **Charlotte Smeak Verreault** often. Margaret teaches 4th grade at Pine Street Elementary and, like the rest of us, can’t wait until April when we will gather for our 25th reunion. Can it really be 25 years?! See you then! Happy Holidays, Hunter

CLASS OF 1980

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2005

Representatives:

Mrs. Lee Anne Davidson Williams
100 Parkdale Drive
Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-585-1009
E-mail: lawchopper41@hotmail.com

Mrs. Sarah Holloway Moore
1761 Sandy Ridge Way
Birmingham, AL 35244, 205-428-0289
E-mail: Moorehousehold@aol.com

Converse Fund Class Chair:
Mrs. Susan Secord Marion

Ellen Miller Burnett wrote from Michigan where she and husband Rusty have been living for the past nine years. She had a hard time getting used to the terrible winter weather. Ellen writes, “Sometimes I have had to go around the house to shovel snow away from the front door

and throw salt on the steps in order to have company because the snow is so thick. It is beautiful otherwise! The Great Lakes are incredible and everyone runs to their ‘cottages’ for breaks to ski or boating.” Ellen has three daughters and the older one, Ashleigh, is a freshman at Converse! Ellen said the greatest part about her daughter choosing Converse is she gets to return for a visit and feel all the wonderful memories. She says her daughter has to keep reminding her that this is 2003 and times have really changed! She says the values are still there and she knows her daughter is going to experience a great education. President Gray even stopped by the room to welcome them while they were unpacking! Ellen has two other daughters, Caroline, a prospective student next year for Converse, and Chandler who is uncertain of a school at this time. Ellen writes “Ashleigh and I set up the Instant Messenger so we can chat and I asked the question, ‘Have you been to Wofford?’ Her answer—”of course”ooooohhhhhh!” As for me, my ‘baby’ Caroline just started kindergarten so I have a few more years to prepare for that! Big sister Maddie is in 5th grade so they will have this year together in elementary school for which I am grateful. Time does fly! Happy Holidays! Hope you will take the time to drop me a card/ E-mail or photo of your family to write about in the next notes. Stay in touch! Sarah

CLASS OF 1982

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2007

Representative:

Ms. Kelly Posey
116 Timberbridge Court
Woodstock, GA 30188, 770-475-6392
E-mail: kellyposey@comcast.net

Converse Fund Class Chair:
Ms. Becky Nutter Cassidy

As I write these notes, the Braves are playing the Cubs in the first game of the playoffs. I hope by the time you read this, the Braves are the World Series Champs. But I’ve wished that for the past 12 years with not much luck (sigh). It’s been a wet summer for many of our classmates. The early summer rains forced **Ann Grimbail Peebles** and her family into a hotel while their yard was under water. They don’t call that area of South Carolina the low country for nothing. **Cathy Richardson Sawyer** and her family survived Hurricane Isabel when it hit Virginia. I haven’t heard from our classmates on the North Carolina coast. Drop me a line and let me know how you’re doing. **Melissa (Jones) Fontaine** and her husband Frank are settling in to army life in Germany. Melissa had several auditions this fall and performed with the Army Concert Band. **Becky Nutter Cassidy** sent news that she’s enjoying her new job with H & R Block. She reports that **Toni Guzzi Erdman** and her husband are building a new facility for his dental practice. **Sharon Roddy Waters** has

reached the half-way point of seminary while serving a church in Asheville, NC, full time. I hope all of you have a wonderful holiday season with your friends and family. Take a moment to get in contact with one of your Converse classmates that you haven’t heard from in awhile. I have a class list if you need an address, phone number or E-mail. And if you’ve got E-mail, drop me a quick note. My hard drive crashed and I need to rebuild my contacts list without having to type in all these addresses. Merry Christmas!

CLASS OF 1984

20th Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2004

Representatives:

Mrs. Teri Temple Kirkland
136 Rustic Manor Court
Lexington, SC 29072, 803-957-9171

Ms. Mary H. Witherspoon
3272 Oakridge Drive
Graham, NC 27253, 336-578-4429
E-mail: withlyn@aol.com

Converse Fund Class Chair:
Mrs. Elena Pribyl Rush



Yes, it has been quite a while since you last heard from your class representatives, however it is not entirely our fault! I can only imagine that each of you are as busy as I am, or you may feel that you’re not doing anything particularly newsworthy, so you have not bothered to write to either **Mary “Spoon” Witherspoon** or me. What a shame. If we do not hear from you we cannot pass the word on to the rest of our classmates. To have something to write in this issue, I went down our list of Class of 1984 names, leaving messages on answering machines, asking you to please call me back and give me some scoop! I did manage to catch up with my old roommate **Michelle Stokes Fussell**. Michelle and husband Barry were college sweethearts. I believe she put 100,000 miles on her car driving back and forth to Clemson. Still happily married and living in Clayton, NC, just outside of Raleigh, they have two children, Clay (14), a freshman at Southeast Raleigh High School and Emily (12), in the 7th grade. Both are active in sports and music. Michelle teaches pre-school at First Baptist Church of Garner where she is also the chairperson of the decorating committee for the church. She also devotes time to her son’s high school as a board member. Husband Barry is with Cisco Computer Company. Michelle tells me that **Stephanie Strange Gibson** is happily settled in Greenville, SC, where she lives with husband Kyle and their four children. Stephanie teaches aerobics (as if chasing after four children is not exercise enough). I played a mean game of phone tag with **Kim White O’Quinn**. We never caught up with one another but I spoke to her son Kevin who is 13. Kim also has a 16-year-old son named Jason. Kevin tells me that

his mom is a big advertising executive for H & W Creatives. Kim and the boys live here in Columbia, SC. **Elaine Folline Mikell** has been named one of the U.S. Optical Industry’s “50 Most Influential Women.” She is vice president of marketing for Folline Vision Centers, a family business started by her grandfather and continued by her father, Jack Folline. **Margaret McElroy Goatley**, **Lisa Barrett**, **Julie Cole**, **Lesa Underwood** ’90, and **Claire Bramlett** ’90 cruised seven days in February in the eastern Caribbean on the Carnival “Pride”. Lisa Barrett arranged the cruise through the Travel Beyond Agency in Jacksonville, FL where she works. I hope that you are all aware of our 20th class reunion April 23-25, 2004. Spoon and I will be attending a training session at Converse to prepare for the big event, but we would love your input. Please write to us and let us know what kind of gatherings you would enjoy attending during our reunion weekend. I may not be the best at class notes, but I do love to plan a party! Please mark your calendar and be in touch. My laptop went to The Citadel with my stepson, Jay, but feel free to contact me via my husband’s E-mail until I get a replacement. His address is joekirk@sc.rr.com. I look forward to hearing from you. Teri

CLASS OF 1985

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2005

Representatives:

Mrs. Vandy Major McFaddin
52 Orchard Circle
Columbia, SC 29206, 803-782-0204
E-mail: vandymc@aol.com

Mrs. Krisila Newman Foster
225 Mountain Range Road
Boiling Springs, SC 29316, 864-814-4476
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Converse Fund Class Chairs:
Mrs. Mary Helen Richbourg Earle
Mrs. Susan Peel Hollingsworth

I don’t have much to report this time. This is what happens when we don’t hear from you. The Downs Syndrome Buddy Walk was held in New York City in October and Kate Liggitt (2), daughter of **Kelley Maloney Liggitt**, was featured on the Times Square billboard advertising the Buddy Walk. Kelley entered the cutest picture of Kate in a hula skirt in a contest in which there were over 1000 entries and approximately 200 pictures were featured on the billboard. I received a shocking E-mail from **Krisila Newman Foster** that made me realize how precious life is. On August 26 her parents were driving home from the dentist when a car pulled out in front of them. Her father was killed and her mother seriously injured and airlifted to the hospital. Thankfully her mother had no broken bones and only had to spend a few days in the hospital. Her son Blake reacted by saying, “I have lost my best friend.” Krisila takes

comfort in the great summer they shared as her father listened to Blake quote Shakespeare for hours. Please remember Krisila and her family during this very difficult holiday season. In the last newsletter, seeing that our class had only 14% class participation in giving to Converse caused me much frustration. Don’t you remember when we used to do the phone-a-thons and called those ‘old’ alumnae? Well now we are the ‘old’ alumnae and let’s start giving! Drop me a Christmas card and let me know how you and yours are doing.

CLASS OF 1987

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2007

Representative:

Mrs. Martha Lynn Mercer Gaskins
213 S. Farr Avenue
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E-mail: mlgaskins@sc.rr.com

Converse Fund Class Chair:
Mrs. Martha Lynn Mercer Gaskins

Wow! It’s hard to believe that the holidays are here and that 2003 will soon be ending! This has been the year of our 20th high school reunions, and I’ve heard from several of you that you attended yours. It doesn’t seem like it has been 20 years since we were freshmen at Converse. **Laura Chappell Bauknight** says the campus looks great; the science building is going up and Belk has been renovated into suites! Wouldn’t that be fun? Laura won a week at a house in Gulf Shores and she and several Converse friends spent a girls’ weekend there. **Mel Clyburn** took some time off during the summer and toured the western U.S. She really covered some ground, visiting Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, the Grand Tetons, Jackson Hole, Yellowstone, Mt. Rushmore, and the Badlands. Mel says there are so many great parks and monuments within the National Park System; she highly recommends getting a park system passport and exploring them, particularly the lesser known parks. **Beth Woods Sessums** and her children, Clare and Todd, spent a summer week with **Elizabeth Finlay Vingi** and her family in Kiawah. **Christy Davis Stoner** took her daughter Cassidy on a tour of Converse recently; after buying every possible item with the Converse logo at the bookstore, she reports that Cassidy is a die-hard Converse girl, but unfortunately will be a Pink Panther! **Barbara Council Bonner**, husband Paul and three children have recently moved into a new home in Charlotte. **Becky Seeger Eller** and her family have also moved, from Rocky Mount, NC, to Dublin, OH, a suburb of Columbus. Becky’s husband, Tommy, was transferred with Honeywell; she and the children are looking forward to experiencing a “real” winter. **Andrea Lyles Hueble** is living in Greenville, SC, and keeping busy with her new son and two daughters. She keeps in touch with **Stephenie Syer Gwaltney**. Stephenie ran into **Stacy**

Abeyta Tucker at a restaurant in Huntsville; it's amazing how small the world can be! **Peggy Hair Alford** and her family spent a week in Maine, enjoying the scenery, cool weather, and lobster. Peggy and **Wallis Crum Bond** are members of a supper club in Columbia that was started by Converse girls soon after we graduated. Peggy says the club still meets each month, but has really grown in 16 years and the Converse members are now outnumbered! Wallis, her husband Todd and son Charlie vacationed at Litchfield this summer and were there at the same time as **Sherrie Moss Board** and **Rebekah Jennings Murphy** and their families. Bill and I met all of them one evening, and we had a great time together. **Sheila Wilkerson Chatto** and her two children, Melissa (10) and Christopher (7) spent Labor Day weekend on a mission trip with their church in Hickory, NC. She says that it was a great experience for them all, and while the work was hard, they felt that they received far more than they gave. **Janet Bean** spent the summer helping out with her sister Judy's triplets. They were in town for an extended visit between moving from New Orleans to Virginia. Janet says things were very loud around her house! **Nancy Davenport** is busy in Charleston with her new daughter, Ellison. **Mary Kay Seckinger** is also busy with her three children, including new baby Sophie. Husband Jon works for Dexmedia, the yellow pages company for 14 western states. **Anne Trenning Sasser** promises to send news about her new CD as soon as it is available; I'll pass it on to you via E-mail when she does. If I don't have your E-mail address, please send it and I'll add it to our "network". Happy Holidays to you all!

CLASS OF 1989

15th Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2004

Representatives:

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Converse Fund Class Chairs:

Mrs. Savannah Elizabeth Joyce
Rev. Kelli Waters Taylor



Connie Gerald Smith sends news that she is beginning her second year of home schooling daughter Kendall (9), who is also involved with cheerleading, softball, basketball, singing and her latest discovery baton twirling. Little sister Carter attends K-4 preschool and loves anything involving movement - the more the better! Husband Stacey is busy working, coaching a boy's basketball team at their church, playing with a praise and worship band and directing with the media team at church. Connie also

teaches Creative Movement (dance) to preschoolers in the afternoon. **Christina Cummings Pick** sends word that Madeline (3) and Cary (almost 1) are doing great! She and husband Charles planned to attend several Auburn games this fall. She spoke to **Rena Pridmore Fowler** who stays busy with her three boys. **Leah Andrews Mumford** bought a house in May and is renovating it herself. Her children, Alden and Kelsey, are in 6th and 3rd grades, respectively and Kelsey has been invited to join the gymnastics team. **Marlyn Canero Ciesla** took her daughter, Rebecca, to an Amy Grant concert recently. Husband, Jim, continues his teaching at Northern Illinois University. **Lori Morris Gilbert** moved over the summer from Denver, CO to Asheville, NC. Daughters Shelby (2) and Chloe (1) weathered the move much easier than their parents but all are glad to be closer to family and friends. **Wendy Wolfenden Miller** spoke with **Kathryn Owens Johnson** and both are planning on attending the reunion. **Judy Bean Slack** has been living with her parents until they finalize their move to Williamsburg, VA. Friends from Chicago with three years old quadruplets came to spend a week with them at a house on Isle of Palms. Yikes! With Judy and Matt's triplets, that makes seven three year olds in one house! **Kelli Waters Taylor** is now in Greenville, SC, after her marriage and new ministerial appointment (see Life Events). Meg Franklin, daughter of **Margaret Boyd Franklin**, was a flower girl in Kelli's wedding, coming all the way from Lawton, OK. Kelli is continuing her work towards a doctor of ministry degree in religious journalism and has had a number of articles published in the last year. I, **Kathryn Chapman McAlpin**, have taken a part time job as a researcher for the *Alabama Civil Trial Reporter*. I am also living at the ballpark again this fall as my oldest son is playing youth football. Hope to see everyone at the reunion April 23-25, 2004. Make certain that weekend is marked on your calendar and plan to be there.

CLASS OF 1990

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2005

Representatives:

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Converse Fund Class Chairs:

Mrs. Lawson Edwards Hough
Ms. Lesa Underwood



We know that the Class of 1990 is thriving in every way, but we want specifics! Clutching this publication firmly in one hand we ask you to run - yes, run - to your computer and E-mail us immediately! At the very least, just send an E-mail message giving your E-mail address. Hunting and gathering class notes is an adventure, made more exciting when we have tons of tidbits to tie together. **Lesa Underwood** writes that while life in Boston was tops, the cost of living was too high for her to pursue her true passion: travel. Thus, she will make Boston a vacation destination instead of home and take up temporary residence in Charleston while completing a six months freelance assignment. Speaking of vacation destinations: **Laura Heggeman Brooks**, **Darden Porter Grant**, **Margaret Bouknight Bauer**, and **Kelley Collman** vacationed in Ponte Vedra, FL, in July. A little further up the East coast, and a little later in the summer, **Nancy Steed** ran into **Ann Morrow Boyd** at the Cloister in Sea Island, GA. They enjoyed catching up poolside while their children played. Florida trips are work-related for **Lynn Pettus Finkelstein**, who would love to take time off to see **Mary McDaniel Ridgeway** in Greenville, SC, but work with Wachovia is keeping her busy. **Lee Reese** isn't a stranger to the airways: San Francisco hosted her this summer and she spent two weeks in Europe this fall. SanFran is home to **Rebecca Lesto Shunk** who recently enjoyed Belgium with husband Rick and without their children. **Lisa Lyle Fields** hosted a "sip and see" for several classmates and their babies - all of which were born in a three-month span. Honorees were: **Beth Benston Elmore** and baby Abby, **Lawson Edwards Hough** and baby William, **Mary Kenyon Robards Jones** and baby Bauer, and Mary McDaniel Ridgeway and baby Mac. **Deidre Park** is too busy with work to have much to report. I think that most of us feel that way! Remember: dash to your desk - before you forget - and send a little news for all to enjoy. Many thanks, Stephanie, Mary, and Melissa

CLASS OF 1991

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2006

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Converse Fund Class Chair:
Mrs. Maria Macaulay Sellers



I hope this finds you all well, preparing for the holiday season. As I write, we are preparing to move so forgive me if I have left your information in storage; I will catch up next column! I know there is a lot of news out there, so please let me hear from you. Make note of all my new information above (and you can write that in permanent ink!). **Julie Weston Daniels** and husband Roger were

married in July at the Dornoch Cathedral in Scotland. Roger is a professor at The College of Charleston and they had quite the European honeymoon. I wish I could say that I went to the wedding, but I hope to see the pictures soon. A celebration reception was held in September in Alexandria, VA, for **Sonya Harmeyer Marsden** and her husband, Dave, who were married in Belize in March. Our class continues to mourn the loss of one of our own this year, **Natalie Rowland Segars**. On June 24, she lost the battle to cancer that she and her family had fought so hard for so long. In this season, I know we will all remember her loving and supportive husband, Scott, and their two young children as well as Natalie's sister, Monica Rowland Loving '86, and her parents. Many classmates gathered for her service in Columbia. One remembrance of Natalie will be on campus - a memorial brick. Her spirit in that place will live on as well as in the hearts of the Class of 1991. In a wonderful September newsletter from **Wendy Jolley-Kabi**, she reports of her marriage (three ceremonies!) to Tsepo that included her adopted sons, Mandela and Thabi. As of this writing they were anticipating their return to the States. Wendy will be working as the Director of Development at Jubilee Association of Maryland, the Mennonite organization for which she worked for four years before going to Lesotho as a Peace Corps volunteer, that provides residential care for adults with developmental disabilities. There was still much to be done to complete the immigration process. We hope that by the time you read this, Wendy and her family will be stateside.

CLASS OF 1992

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2007

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Converse Fund Class Chair:
Mrs. Elaine Anderson McDowall



Before our summer even began **Lisa Ramsey Deibel** received an exciting honor as she was named Teacher-of-the-Year at Midland Valley High School in Aiken County. **Melissa Carlton Salko** writes of some very exciting news. She and her husband, Rick, have adopted twin girls from China. You can read all about their story and see pictures of their beautiful daughters on their website, www.homepage.mac.com/a2thdr. **Nicole Bailey Ferro** is going back to work part time as a private tutor. She's excited as this also allows her time with her twins.

Catherine Adams Gallagher spent time traveling this summer and visiting with some Converse friends. She spent a weekend with **Rose Buyck Newton** at her home in Hilton Head. She says Rose is handling her two little ones with ease. She also writes that **Laura McLeod Green** is home schooling her oldest this year. Laura and husband Jimmy are thankful that his second year of medical school is behind them. **Gretchen Bishop** writes of her trip to Texas in July to visit **Cokie Hernandez Velez**. She says that Cokie's son, Evan, is precious. **Lydia Wood** became Aunt Lil in August with the birth of her nephew, Connor Lane Wood, son of David and Lynn Wood. **Amy Walker Headley** and family have finally moved in the house they began building in the summer of 2002. She says she sees **Beth Davenport Williams** often and that she is doing well but has her hands full with four children. I have been busy with my two little Littles as my youngest Cece (Caroline) just had her first birthday and Charlotte started pre-school this year. A friend and I have started a small business in which we make children's play clothes, burp cloths, and many other accessories, all of which can be monogrammed. The name of our business is Oopsie Daisy by EA Designs. If you are in the Columbia area, I invite you to take a look. Just give me a call. Check out the Life Events section for even more news about our class. Please send E-mail addresses and news to Anna or me. We love hearing from you, and your classmates enjoy getting your E-mail addresses, too!

CLASS OF 1993

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2008

Representatives:

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Converse Fund Class Chair:
Ms. Candy Moore



Thanks to everyone from the Class of 1993 for giving me something to write about! **Molly Fortune** spent a week in Cuba working with preservationists and architects. The League of Historic American Theaters sponsored the trip and Molly was on the island studying the preservation efforts in Havana. **Elizabeth Watson Caldwell** sent a note saying that she is taking time off from Delta's Advertising Department to enjoy full time motherhood with son, Davis (1). **Rebecca Baldy Masser** dropped me a line from Tampa, FL, to report that her husband has been promoted to District Sales Finance Manager with Wells Fargo. She continues her paralegal work and their son, Jeffrey Neal, is entering his "terrible twos"



FAIN LANGDALE
McDANIEL '92

Since graduating from Converse College with a BA in accounting in 1992, Fain Langdale McDaniel's career path has led her to a key position with one of the world's premier accounting firms. "I began my career as an auditor in a local public accounting firm in Spartanburg," explains Fain. "Then I worked as an internal auditor in the retail industry for a public company. Based on my varied work experience in both the public and private sectors, I decided to pursue an audit career with KPMG, a 'Big 4' accounting firm."

In 2002, KPMG LLP and KPMG International combined posted revenues of more than \$14 billion. The company employs approximately 100,000 professionals in member firms worldwide who collaborate across industry, service and national boundaries to deliver professional services in 150 countries.

When the *Bulletin* caught up with her, Fain had just settled into her new KPMG office in Silicon Valley, California. Before relocating to California, Fain had been on assignment for the company in the United Kingdom. "In the UK," explains Fain, "I performed a technical advisory role for KPMG European member firms and their clients registered with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Specifically, I dealt with the application of accepted accounting principles and auditing standards in the US, and SEC rules and regulations."

In her present role with KPMG, Fain is a Senior Manager in the area of audit and risk advisory service. "I am responsible for carrying-out financial statement audit engagements for companies in the technology industry, specifically in the software industry. I normally supervise a team of 10-15 people, depending on the project we're working on."

according to Rebecca. **Cheryl Davis** sent news that she graduated from nursing school and is working in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Baptist Hospital in Columbia, SC. Her twins, Emily and Grayson, are now four years old and keep her busy with ballet, gymnastics, etc. While in Atlanta on business I had the opportunity to have dinner with **Gaby Sifter**. Gaby is enjoying her job as Events Coordinator with Coca-Cola and is traveling to a lot of great places. Over the past year she has attended the Sundance Film Festival (where she reported seeing Gregg Kinnear, J. Lo, and Ben Affleck), and has flown to many exotic places on board the company jet. It sure makes my seat in coach class look grim as I continue working in Latin America as International Sales Manager for Fiskars Brands. I am traveling outside the country quite regularly and am definitely putting my Spanish to good use. My husband, Ted, and I continue to live in the chilly Midwest but we enjoying being near Chicago. Hopefully we will make it back home someday to stay! Be certain to see the Life Events section for additional news of our classmates! I hope the holidays find you all well!

CLASS OF 1994

10th Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2004
Representatives:

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Converse Fund Class Chair:
Ms. Jada Carol Wood



I know this is hard to believe, but this is the last newsletter before our 10 year reunion! Please mark your calendars and start making your travel plans for April 23-25. Let us know if you have any suggestions for making this reunion the best one ever! **Chesnut Clarke Allen** has graciously offered to help plan the class dinner in addition to juggling her many "hats" of mother, business owner, wife, and good friend. The September wedding party of **Kristin Cochran Ambory** included **Angel Stewart Young**, **Amy Thompson Fairbank**, and **Betsy Potter**. Also in attendance were **Maria Ingram Wilson**, **Bree Bazemore Welmaker**, **Sheryl Jones Findley**, and **Jennifer Hull**. Betsy is now working as the lead chemist for Contec (an upstate manufacturing company). Sheryl, her husband, and son Aidan are living in Nashville, TN where her husband is an Episcopal priest. Jennifer is living in Greenville, SC, and teaching kindergarten at Mauldin Elementary. We heard from **Pamela Smoak** via E-mail. She reports that since she spoke to us last, she has been sky diving (several times), hang gliding, rock

climbing, and piloting hang gliders. All this in addition to a career as a physical therapist at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center! **Caroline Caldwell VanHook** is leading the United Way campaign at her firm in Greenville. This year's nationwide theme is "If it didn't matter, we wouldn't ask." **Debbie Fischer Rhoads** also E-mailed from Florida to update us on her past 10 years. "I fell in love with my brother's roommate/fraternity brother named Chris. (My mom always said that having older brothers would pay off, and I guess it did!) We were married in '96 and now have two children, Abbey (4) and Owen (2)." **Virginia O'Melia McPherson** called from Alabama recently. She had not been heard from since **Jennifer Newton Warnock's** wedding. She wanted news on everyone and sends her best to all her old buddies. Jennifer and husband Ralph have moved to Lexington and are opening a pediatric dental office. **Susan Bean Candee** earned her National Board certification last year. She teaches history at her alma mater, Riverside High, in Greenville County. **Susanne Jones Norwood** recently hosted a book club dinner for Susan, **Kelly Richardson Weekes**, **Cathy Goodman Doyle**, and **Katie Abbott Kluttz**. They discussed their book selection, *The Da Vinci Code*, but also enjoyed a wonderful evening in Susanne's home. **Markette Mallory Baker** E-mailed from LaGrange, GA, where she and her husband moved after graduating from law school in Mississippi. A two-lawyer household! **Kristen Harris Cavin** is in Tennessee with her husband, Brian and son, Harris. She wrote that she has recently renewed contact with **Jenny Murray**, a lost classmate of ours. We love to find old friends and especially hope to see you at reunion! Kaysi and Katie would like to thank Angel Stewart Young one more time for single-handedly keeping news of our class updated each quarter. We hope to do half as good a job.

CLASS OF 1995

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2005
Representatives:

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Converse Fund Class Chair:
Vacant



Happy Holidays to everyone. It's been awhile since we've had an update and we would love to hear what you have been doing. **Lydia Barber Pennington** and husband Garth are still living in Lakeland, FL. Their little one, Brady, was four in August. They both work for Publix, she as a database management technician and he as an HR investigator. Lydia's brother has started his own salsa company, Hot Wachula's, which is also available at Publix. Go out and try some! Members of the August wedding party of **Jamye Horres Hurteau** were Cynthia Pettersen Thrower '92 as matron of honor and bridesmaids **Mary Cameron Cleckley** and **Allison deBrux**. Also attending were **Bridgett Lee Kennedy**, Anne Jeter Lindsay '93, Emily Watson Chariker '96, and Ginger Crawford Phillips '97. **Laura Kate Moore** is in New York City where she is pursuing her opera career. In October she sang the role of Siebel in Gounod's *Faust* for DiCapo Opera Theater. She also regularly attends "opera night" at Caffè Taci on New York City's Upper West Side where she saw Kimilee Bryant '88 and had fun sharing Converse memories and catching up on career information. **Missy Stuart Dillmon** is nearing completion of her fellowship in hematology/oncology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and will be taking a position next year with the Harbin Clinic in Rome, GA.

CLASS OF 1996

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2006
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Converse Fund Class Chairs:

Mrs. Starr Lockhart Carr
Mrs. Pam Hughes Foster
Ms. Heidi S. Ruehl



Greetings to the Class of 1996! The past few months have included many fun and exciting events for all of us, and our class is busy and on the go! **Starr Lockhart Carr** writes that she is teaching classes one day a week in the College of Health Professions at MUSC in Charleston, SC, and working with both outpatients and inpatients. **Kirstie Waugh Tucker** is still moving and shaking in Washington, DC, though at the Department of Treasury instead of the White House (see Life Events section). **Jennifer George Cook** writes that she is working part-time for the Princeton Review but still loves her other job as a stay-

at-home-mom, where she was listening to Sesame Street as she wrote. **Kerry Ashley** is in customer relations for Security Finance and is filling her spare time as chair of Project Development in the Spartanburg Junior League. Daughters Avery and Megan keep her busy as well. An impromptu "mini-reunion" for the Class of '96 took place at the wedding of **Kristin Johnson Welsh**. Those flocking to Raleigh for the big event were **Jenny Williams**, **Catherine Cranford Elliott**, **Charlotte Smith**, **Mani Wallace Reed**, **Jill Rogers McDonald**, **Leigh Edmunds McLaurin**, and **Claire Marie Benedict Huff**. Raleigh will never be the same! Kristin's husband has just opened a cybercafe/coffeehouse called "The Tek" in Raleigh that keeps them both busy, along with their new house. **Heather Deifell** writes that she has received a promotion with the Salvation Army as the Program Director for the Boys and Girls Club that will keep her in Asheville for a little while longer. She has deferred seminary at Fuller Theological Seminary and Regent College with the hopes of attending in a couple of years. She filled us in on **Kathryn Fish**, who is married and living in Huntersville, NC. "Professor" Jenny Williams is teaching English at Spartanburg Tech and in her spare time has started a book club in Spartanburg involving many Converse alumnae, according to **Beth Farmer**. Beth recently attended the National Federation of Press Women conference in Delaware where she was honored as South Carolina's Communicator of Achievement. I hear the other nominees from other states were a little older and had been in the field longer, so it was a true nod to Beth's talent and dedication. Catherine Cranford Elliott is doing well in the MFA program at Savannah College of Art and Design, where three of her projects have been selected for display in the college's Interior Design Archival Collection. As always, if you know of any news of our classmates, please let us know.

CLASS OF 1997

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2007
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Converse Fund Class Chairs:

Mrs. Gretchen Barwegen Bagwell
Mrs. Emily Gowdy Canady
Ms. Leigh Ann Ward



Well, ladies, another summer has passed and so many things have taken place! Thanks to each of you who have communicated with us! **Stefanie Williams Prince** wrote that she is still enjoying her life as a stay-at-home mom with her two young sons. They completed the building of their beach house and invite anyone in town to swing by for a mini-reunion! **Catherine Alexander** has received a promotion with U.S. Foodservice in Greenville and is now the manager of National Accounts Administration. She reported that **Donna Pallassino Evans** and husband Dan are still in Myrtle Beach. **Jennifer Coggins Reese** and her family have relocated to a new house in Boiling Springs. **Holly Easler Jones** is living in Pacolet with husband Bobby and their daughter Riley (4) and is teaching. **Merri Christy Harmon**, **Dawne Copeland Bendig**, **Andrea Sparks**, and **Jennifer Buchanan Kureka** had a mini reunion in Myrtle Beach in June. Merri Christy is working at Summerville Baptist Church and Andrea is pursuing her PhD at USC. Dawne is teaching in Pickens County and Jennifer is a stay-at-home mom to daughter, Mary Elizabeth (2). **Amanda Taylor Meyers** and husband Kurt are living in Texas where Amanda is the manager of member services for the Greater Houston Partnership. Attending Amanda's April wedding were **Lisa Spratlin Hoffmann** and **Eleanor Smoak Connelly**. **Laura Marchant Williams** wrote that she is renovating a 1938 house in the Greenville area. She joined **Jennifer Schwartz**, **Kim Varnadoe Bearden**, **Rachel Chartrand Berry**, **Katie Fort Smith**, **Ginger Crawford Phillips**, **Caroline Taylor**, **Heather Eldridge**, and **Sarah Montgomery McSwain** in Wild Dunes for the Fourth of July weekend. **Daphne Robinson Petros** is now a stay-at-home mom with daughter, Logan. **Natalie Griffin** is teaching in a private school in St. Louis. **Leigh Anne Ward** is teaching in Jackson, MS. **Kellie Walker** has passed both the written and oral tests to become a certified addictions counselor at the Anderson Behavioral Health Services Center. **Emily Grady** is now selling real estate with Spaulding Company in Greenville and invites everyone to keep her in mind when relocating to the upstate! I saw **Astrid Luthi Breakfield** at our high school reunion; she and husband John are enjoying life in Atlanta. I am at Dawkins Middle School this year with **Leslie Hembree** and **Shannon Smith Darby**, who have both helped make the transition back into teaching a smoother one! Keep E-mailing us about those fun mini-reunions so we can keep everyone up to date! Shannon

CLASS OF 1998

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2008
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Converse Fund Class Chairs:
Mrs. Olivia Thornton Charney
Ms. Alex Gavalas
Mrs. Clayton Kears Walton



Erinn Cox writes from Virginia that she is currently studying for the GRE so she can pursue a master's degree in art therapy. **Stephanie Easterday** has enrolled in another chiropractic school program to specialize in Chiropractic Orthopedics. She will have her third degree in another three years! **Shayle Abelkop** moved to Cincinnati, OH, in June. In her spare time, she keeps busy rollerblading, hiking, and mountain biking. **Brooke Harris Thompson** and her husband are now working for their church's children's ministry. **Christina Willingham Burbage** is teaching Resource at White Knoll Elementary in Lexington, SC. **Lynsey Carmichael Bullington** continues to teach 2nd grade at Jesse Boyd Elementary in Spartanburg. **Kay Liner Little** is busy with her acting accomplishments. She signed with the Coastal Talent Agency and has since been cast in the independent film "Crossword of Life" (directed by LA director Jaz Beitler). The film will be submitted to film festivals across the country. Closer to home, she is currently in a commercial for the *Charleston Post & Courier* newspaper. Another talented classmate, **Kelanie Gloeckler** has moved to Nashville, TN where she is traveling with a ministry team, playing music, and recording some of her songs. **Mary Ellen Goff Conner** recently cut 11.5 inches of her hair and donated her ponytail to Locks of Love, a nonprofit organization that provides hairpieces to children suffering from medical hair loss. She keeps in touch with **Angie Murphy** and **Jennifer Nexsen Holliday** and says both are doing very well. In addition to her job at Spring Hill College in Mobile, AL, **Paige Eubanks** has taken on a second career as a free-lance event planner. She and three partners formed Pg. 1, LLC in May 2003. She says they are quite busy with weddings and holiday events. **Kristen Pruitt Taylor** is studying for her Personal Trainers Certification. Her test is in Raleigh, NC, in December. **Laura Matthews Pappas** and her husband are having tons of fun with their new foxhound/lab named Rosalita. She made the trip home to SC for a week over the summer. Please be sure to see the Life Events section for more details about our classmates.

CLASS OF 1999

5th Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2004
Representatives:

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DEE DEE
WASHINGTON '03 MED

Dee Dee was drawn to pursue her MED at Converse because of the Leadership Academy in the Department of Education. In essence, she was following in the footsteps of her mother. “My mother-who was a teacher and a school principal-instilled within me a desire to be an educator,” explains Dee Dee. “I was drawn to the Leadership Program at Converse because it is designed to train teachers for administrative responsibilities.”

With a degree in education from the University of South Carolina, Dee Dee taught in an elementary school in her native Winnsboro (SC) before moving to Greenville with her husband. After landing a teaching position at Reidville Elementary, she was recommended for the Leadership Academy by John Sheppard, then principal at Reidville, who noticed the definite leadership potential in Dee Dee. Midway through the program, however, Sheppard passed away unexpectedly, and Dee Dee was named acting principal and accelerated through the program. With the start of the 2003-04 academic year, she assumed full responsibilities as the school’s principle.

“Even though we faced many difficult situations last year at Reidville, we emerged an even closer family of school and community members,” said Dee Dee. “I’ll never forget the way I was embraced as a member of the Reidville family.”

Dr. Tom McDaniel, Senior Vice President and Acting Dean of Graduate Studies at Converse, is not surprised by Dee Dee’s success. “I was an active teacher in the Learning Academy during the time that Dee Dee was at Converse,” he says. “She’s got all the tools—personal skills, brain power, etc.—to make for an outstanding administrator.”

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Shwetha Gupta is in her senior year at Georgia School of Dentistry and did an internship this past summer in Flagstaff, AZ, working with the Indian Reservation Public Health Clinic. Shwetha says she also visited the Grand Canyon and Las Vegas and went skydiving for the first time. **Marcie Vance Porter** moved back to Huntsville, AL, to help care for and support her mother in her fight with breast cancer. Marcie is happy to report that her mother has been cancer free for over two years and asks for your continued prayers and support that she stay that way. Marcie is now working for a municipal financial advising firm as a senior associate/analyst. **Rachel Burgess** is in Nashville, TN, where she works at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts and Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt. **Erin Randle Foil** is the new technology/SIMS Coordinator for the Davie County School System in North Carolina. **Beth Thompson** reports that she is enjoying life in Kingsland, GA, as Operations Manager of Home-Towne Suites. **Sara Farnaby** received her MA in clinical counseling from Lesley University and is a therapist for adolescents in residential treatment. **Meryl Grant** also received her MA in interior architectural design from RISD. **Nikki Maples** got her MS in pathobiology with an emphasis in environmental toxicology from the University of Texas at El Paso and is now working as a toxicology consultant for a firm in Washington, DC, that works with the EPA and FDA. **Carol Cancienne** is in her second year as a speech-language pathologist at Chinchuba Institute Oral School for the Deaf in New Orleans. She is also working with a group of young adults at her church, as well as training for the 2003 MS Tour for the Cure, a 150 mile bike ride to raise money for MS research. Speaking of exercise, many of you have asked about **Jaime Powell**. She is an amazing athlete and while in an event, she was hit by a truck and dragged down the road. Jaime had a long, painful recovery but is doing very well now. She says that the experience has brought her closer to God and changed her life. We’re glad to hear that you’re doing much better now, Jaime. As for me, I moved back home, living a mile or so from my parents’ home. I’m accounts receivable manager of a country club in the resort area near my hometown, CFO of a small company in the same area, own my own company, and am thinking of buying into another. The area is not exactly known for the pay scale, but I’m happy

being near my family and I enjoy my work. Don’t forget to check out the Life Events pages for additional information and keep us reps informed of your news! Please note that our 5th reunion will be April 23-25, 2004. You will be receiving more details; we hope to see you there! Rachel

CLASS OF 2001
Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2006

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Ms. Julie Lynn McSwain



Greetings Class of 2001! **Lydia Noland** spent the last few summers singing opera; this past one was spent at the Seagle Music Colony in upstate NY. **Larrysa Martin** recently moved to Washington, DC, to pursue a master’s degree in deaf education specializing in multiple-disabilities at Gallaudet University. **Jocelyn Buckner** is currently teaching public speaking at Virginia Commonwealth University and is the patron services associate at the Richmond Ballet while pursuing a master’s degree. **Stephanie Livesay** is excelling at Appalachian School of Law by making Dean’s List, Law Review, and winning two book awards for her Civil Procedure and Legal Process classes. **Rebecca Ray** is working the midnight shift in the ER, training to become a phlebotomist, and just got baptized in the Huron River. **Autaum Morant** currently works for BB&T as a relationship banker and continues to work on her MBA at Webster University. **Melissa Minger** resides in Charleston, SC, where she is attending the College of Dental Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina. The June wedding of **Rebecca Crandall Griffin** included many familiar faces: **Ami Price Gilbert**, **Marcella Palmer**, **Maryeah Jager**, Stephanie Livesay, **Stacey Mulligan**, and **Laura Massey**. Rebecca has accepted a job offer with the law firm of Coats & Bennett in Cary, NC, and will begin working there after she graduates from law school. **Lindsay Birmingham** has moved to the Los Angeles, CA, area to pursue a career in film scoring. This summer she attended the Audio Recording Institute at the Aspen Summer Music Festival in Aspen, CO. Be sure to check the Life Events section of the *Bulletin* for additional news of the Class of 2001. Keep the news coming and have a wonderful winter!