

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

# CONVERSE

MAGAZINE

WINTER 2009

## STUDENT HOUSING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

New Apartments Mark First Phase of  
Comprehensive Plan

## Introducing the Lawson Academy of the Arts

## A Connecticut Yankee in King Cotton's Court 1940s Letters Give Daughter Window into Mother's Life at Converse



Bette Hubbard  
Wakefield '50

**ATTENTION**  
all classes ending in 4 or 9, the Class of  
2008, the Golden Club AND former  
members of the Dance  
Ensemble from ALL classes...

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April 24-25, 2009

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The Alumnae Office has reserved a block of rooms at a special rate for all Converse reunioning alumnae at:

Marriott Spartanburg Conference Hotel  
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Spartanburg, SC 29306  
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Special thanks to Dr. Jeffrey R. Willis

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## A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING COTTON'S COURT



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### About the Cover:

In celebration of the "Community" theme of this issue, Converse held a campus-wide photo competition for photos that convey community. Alison Turner Watson '03, who is now completing a bachelor's degree in music therapy, organized members of Converse's Musicians Helping Others club for the selected photo. She says, "To reflect our personal sense of connection through music, I chose to include a drum in the center of the photo. The circular shape of the drum also symbolizes universal interconnectedness. The members, all holding hands while surrounding the drum, form a star-like flower shape that symbolizes our role in helping each other grow and is evocative of feminine spirit. The star shape connects to our days as the "All-Stars" and also reflects that in a healthy community, we help each other shine."

Pictured clockwise from top: Elly MacPhail '09, Laurie Peebles '11, Assistant Professor of Music Therapy Dr. Anne Lipe, Donna Jackson (Converse II), and Shameka Dwight '09  
Photo by Steve Fincher

## LAWSON ACADEMY OF THE ARTS



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# Happy New Year and Greetings from Converse!

I am often asked what distinguishes Converse from the 1,600 independent colleges and universities in the United States today. In a word, the answer is “community.” The sisterhood of alumnae and the circle of students, faculty, staff and friends who comprise Converse are the jewels of our crown. Your careers and your commitments, your time and your talents, your generosity and your gifts have created a community that is rich, compelling and far-reaching in impact. On all points of the map, and in corners throughout the world, the Converse community effects positive change!

A music therapy major, Allison Turner Watson, Class of 2009 and student in our Converse II program, created the concept for the cover photo of this magazine. The image is her representation of the spheres of influence and connections that make up the Converse community, and sets the stage for our focus on community in the pages that follow.

The Converse community has always been a beacon of inspiration for me. Growing up in Spartanburg, I have forever marveled at the individual and collective efforts of Converse to transform lives, personally and professionally. Converse women of all ages have been ever-present motivators and role models, serving as teachers, neighbors, local leaders and volunteers, and today, mentors and friends. My mother, Lib Fleming '65, reared four children, served constantly as a community leader and now chairs the Public Service Commission for the State of South Carolina. In this issue, another Converse daughter shares the story of her mother Bette Wakefield '50, and the unique journey that she made to Spartanburg and to Converse as revealed in letters recently discovered in Bette's attic after her passing. It is truly a privilege to belong to this community called Converse, to support and advance its mission, and to work amongst those who fervently believe that “the well-being of any country depends much upon the culture of her women.”



## *Our Converse Community*

It is my hope that your pride in Converse will surge as you peruse this issue of the *Converse Magazine* themed “Community” from our core values. The magazine features articles written by members of the greater Converse community, broadening our perspective on and understanding of the distinct aspects of Converse, its evolution and its impact. For example, Professor Emeritus of History, Dr. Jeffrey Willis and Director of the Lawson Academy of the Arts, Paula Morgan, write about the recent name change of our pre-college program to The Lawson Academy of the Arts, reflecting on its history and how, since inception, its music and art programs have progressively enriched the entire Spartanburg community.

With the implementation of our strategic plan, there is great excitement surrounding the College’s commitment to enhance our physical plant. Students and alumnae are active participants in the process to design apartment-style housing for seniors and to renovate the most beloved residence halls. By summer 2009, Kuhn Hall will open as Converse’s first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified structure on campus, ensuring

that sustainability is a priority at Converse.

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**Ultimately, beyond the bricks and mortar, at the heart of the building and growth, it is the people of Converse who give this institution its distinctive identity.**

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Renowned sculptor and longtime friend of the College, Elliot Offner shares his observations about Converse’s innovative joint venture

with Brookgreen Gardens that has increased creative encounters with exquisite works of art on campus. In her moving article entitled “Three Tall Women,” Professor Emeritus of English and gifted author, Dr. Rosa Shand,

introduces readers to three accomplished alumnae whose passions for community service have touched countless lives. As with so many of you, these alumnae’s contributions to their communities evolved out of their Converse experiences.



Scientist and anthropologist Margaret Mead so eloquently urged “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” The close-knit Converse family certainly exemplifies that statement. Thank you for your active involvement in and support of this vibrant and distinctive educational enterprise. We are an ever-evolving community of creative thinkers and doers who are truly changing the world!



Elizabeth A. Fleming, PhD  
President

**CELEBRATING COMMUNITY**

# Student Housing for the 21st Century

## New Apartments Mark First Phase of Comprehensive Plan

On a sun-splashed piece of Converse College's historic campus near the sparkling new Phifer Science Building, a team of students, administrators and consultants have been spending hours strolling, planning and dreaming. There, nestled into the dazzling landscaping that blankets the campus, future Converse senior-year students will soon be able to nurture their burgeoning independence while simultaneously concluding their undergraduate days in trademark Converse style – with an emphasis on community and creativity.

After a year-long study, Converse is moving forward with the design of the first phase of a new, comprehensive housing plan for the College. The first phase, scheduled to break ground this spring and welcome its first residents in the fall of 2010, is apartment-style housing for seniors. With an estimated cost of \$12.5 million, the buildings represent about a third of the comprehensive housing plan's \$40 million price tag, a plan that ultimately will impact every room on campus plus a significant amount of new construction. Although the first phase investment is significant in the current economic climate, the project's many benefits include an immediate increase in revenue once the facilities are occupied.

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**Once complete,  
Converse's housing will  
rival that of any campus  
in the country.**

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Once complete, Converse's housing will rival that of any campus in the country. Indeed, by committing \$40 million to housing – a record for a capital project at Converse – the school acknowledges that access to a diverse menu of housing options has become an increasingly important consideration during the college selection process for students. "If you look at the landscape of higher education, we have high quality residence halls," says Converse College Dean of Students Molly Duesterhaus. "Our rooms are large and the programming receives high marks in student surveys. But our students also make it clear that they want a comparable living experience to their friends at other colleges."

At the same time, school administrators understand any housing that is added to the college's landscape must not only blend seamlessly into the existing architectural integrity of the campus but also complement the unique Converse experience. As Converse President Betsy Fleming said, "Students have been provided with some incredible living experiences before they ever get to college, and we certainly need to be very competitive with other campuses in what we offer. But we also need to be very distinctively Converse, because we think a Converse education is distinctive and we need to reflect that in our residential housing."

To that end, Converse will continue to work closely with Brailsford & Dunlavey, a Washington, D.C. - based facility planning firm that has developed master plans for dozens of schools coast-to-coast. After several campus visits and months of research that included surveys and interviews of students, alumnae, faculty and administrators, Brailsford & Dunlavey has created a strategic housing plan that could guide the college for a generation. Brailsford & Dunlavey will work hand-in-glove first with Greenville, South Carolina - based Neal Prince Architects and Sasaki on design work and then with Harper Corporation on construction.

"Strategic is the key word," explained Brad Noyes, Vice President of Brailsford & Dunlavey. "Converse has not invested a lot in housing over the last 50 years and the student expectations have changed substantially in that period. Converse has strategic objectives, and we have partnered with them to determine how housing can help address those objectives." In the case of the apartment-style housing for seniors, Converse's objective is to provide a blend of the emphasis on community and the nurturing of relationships that the College has long been known for with a residential situation that prepares students on the brink of graduation for life after college.

While many of the details will be revealed once the design is approved in early 2009, the senior apartments are expected to include 128 beds. Each apartment will include a kitchen and a living room, along with a host of modern technological bells and whistles. At the same time, the apartments will likely incorporate a healthy dose of "outdoor spaces" – features such as the rambling front porches and courtyards that are an iconic part of the Converse campus.

The apartments will be the final step in a progression of living situations that students will enjoy during their time at Converse, says Duesterhaus. "We know from our experience that the traditional residence hall with the double-loaded corridor, double rooms and shared bathrooms, helps first-year students make friends and peer groups that enable them to be successful as they move through college," she said. "It is important to keep that model."

Indeed, Converse alumnae are renowned for the lifelong personal and professional relationships that they develop, relationships that often

are forged as first-year students in their residence halls. It is a tradition of community and familial loyalty that is not lost on Fleming. "Engaging with your class and big sister class is a key part of what makes the Converse experience unique," the fourth-year President said. "It's why Converse has produced so many community leaders and so many friendships and relationships where people vacation together every year for 50-plus years. It is essential that we preserve and accentuate that experience."

At the same time, Converse's housing model – when finished – not only will be differentiated from class to class but will build on the year before, as Duesterhaus explains. "In the sophomore year," she said, "we hope to bring the ratios down a little bit lower and begin to encourage students to live in a community but pick enclaves or peer groups who share a common interest. In the junior year, we start to encourage some autonomy, smaller ratios, maybe suite-style living, again centered on some sort of theme and looking toward careers and life goals. Then, in the senior year, we focus on more autonomy as students are thinking about next steps and what that means. So there are certainly different goals that we are trying to achieve each year."

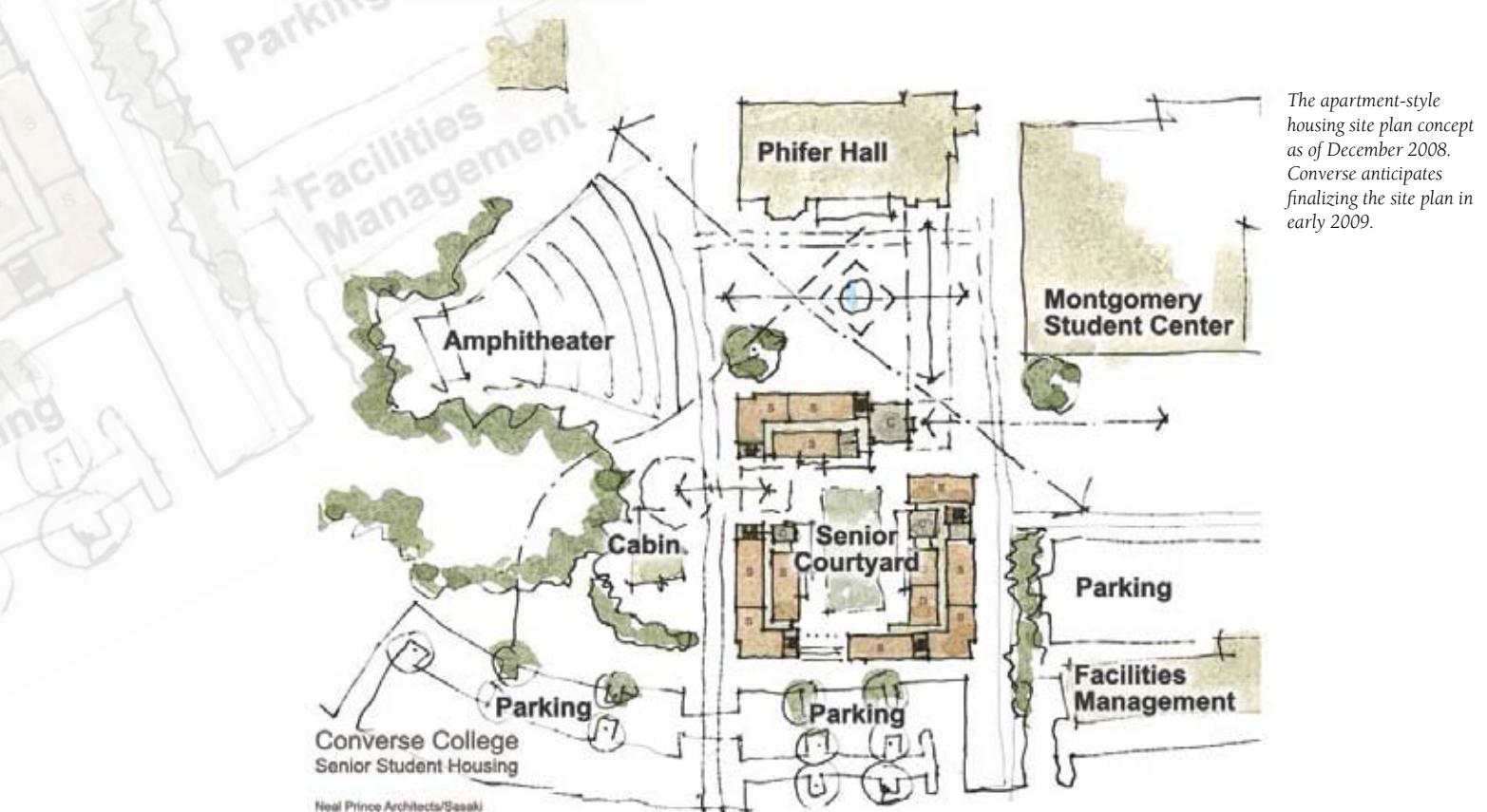
Once ground breaks on the senior apartments this spring, Converse will move into the design phase for new freshmen residences. Housing for the sophomore and junior classes will then be tackled.

"Since it's founding, Converse has recognized and prioritized the benefits of residential life in a college community. It is exciting that we are now furthering those advantages for the 21st Century student. We have a creative, unique plan that will position our campus for the future while honoring our legacy," says Converse President Betsy Fleming.

"We need Converse alumnae to rally around this project like never before—to make investments in this effort to help Converse move forward. There are many naming opportunities that will appeal to individuals, families, classes and groups of friends who recognize the value of their commitment to future Converse generations."

**Converse's objective is to provide a blend of the emphasis on community and the nurturing of relationships that the college has long been known for...**

## Preliminary Site Plan Concept



# A Connecticut Yankee in King Cotton's Court

by Betsy Wakefield Teter

My mother had been gone a month when I sat down on the soft white carpet in her living room and slid open the bottom drawer of her mahogany secretary. Around me were the framed black-and-white images of her youth that I had placed throughout the room to greet the hundreds of friends who had come in February to pay respects. The auction company was to arrive soon, and my siblings and I had the dreaded task of deciding what to keep and what to sell.

Before she died in early 2008, Bette Hubbard Wakefield '50 battled a vicious neurological disease for five years, a disease that took away her ability to walk, to use her hands and finally, to speak. But there, in the back corner of the bottom drawer, was a magic pack of letters that not only brought my mother back to life for me, it introduced me to the brash 18-year-old from New Britain, Connecticut, who boarded a train for "Dixie Land" in September 1946, seeking adventure and education in what was then a foreign territory. In lengthy letters she wrote home every three or four days during her freshman year at Converse College, I saw her New England pluckiness in full flower. I met the boys who came to court her. I saw my own hometown through new eyes. And I discovered a momentous decision that ultimately led to my very existence.

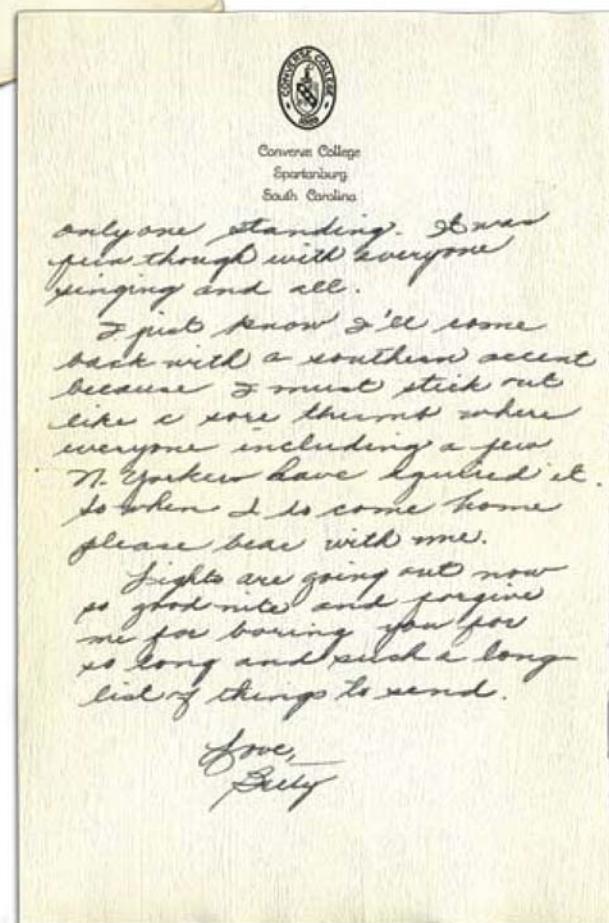
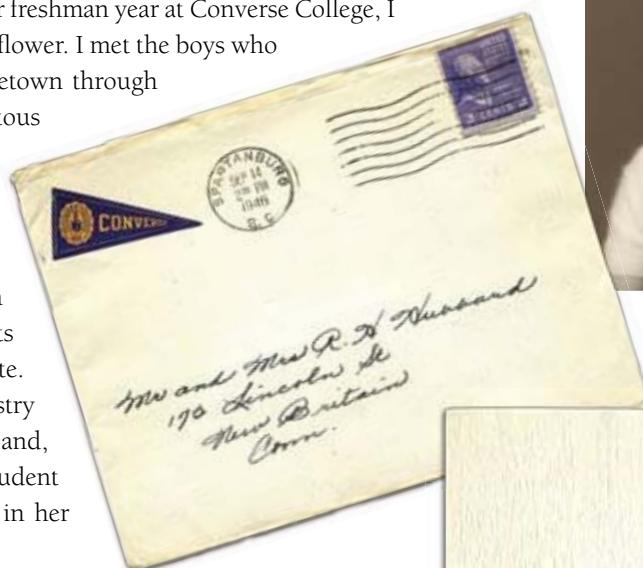
I knew that my mother had come to Converse because she'd suffered from rheumatic fever as a child, and her parents wanted her in a more temperate climate. I knew that she had become a chemistry major, a member of the May Court and, defying the odds, president of the student body. But the stack of yellowed letters in her secretary told stories I had never heard.

Bette's letters told me that her first choice for college had been Stetson University in DeLand, Florida, but her acceptance had been delayed and she instead had picked Converse, where a family friend lived close to campus. Two days after arriving in Spartanburg, she wasn't so sure she'd made the right decision: "You should hear these girls. Already I'm getting sick of their accent, but I guess I'll get used to it," she wrote. A freshman ritual brought home the reality of her decision: "I have just come back from a party for freshmen. This afternoon I met my big sister so I went with her. They sang VA-SC-NC songs, and girls from each state stood up. Then they sang Yankee Doodle. I think I was the only one standing. It was fun though with everyone singing and standing...I just know I'll come back with a southern accent because I must stick out like a sore thumb...So when I come home please bear with me."

There was no shortage of entertainment for the New Britain girl, though. There were movies downtown ("Practically ran all the way back in order to get back at 11:00"), dances at a place called Sunnydale, dinners of fried chicken and pickled peaches at Spartanburg homes, and a discovery of a bush called "holly," which she used to decorate at Christmastime. A thief was loose in Cudd Hall that year, and "the council and dean are doing their very best which doesn't for

## About the author:

Betsy Teter is founder and executive director of Spartanburg's award-winning Hub City Writers Project, a community-based publishing initiative that has produced 36 books and 250 writers since 1997. In 2008, Converse honored Betsy with the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award for her service and contributions to the cultural life of Spartanburg.



the time seem good enough and all of us are getting pretty mad!"

Good southern boys came from Winthrop, Wofford, Columbia and Gastonia to take Bette and her roommates on dates and out-of-town trips. "We got along fine," she writes of a date named Cotton Adams. "He promises to take me up for a ride in his plane. Sounds suspicious." At Thanksgiving a group of girls and boys went to roommate Betty Sue's house in Virginia and neglected to make train reservations for the trip home. They hitched a ride atop mail bags in the train's baggage car along with "three dogs, one cat, a crate of chickens, barrels of lobsters and boxes of fireworks, and last but not least, a corpse (in a coffin) ... Everyone at school is talking about us."

Despite the fun, Bette and her other roommate, Ann Hayford, were intent on transferring. The acceptance from Stetson arrived, and my grandparents sent in the housing deposit. "Right now I think I will transfer because the courses here are alright but as you remember not too hot ... another reason is maybe I'll be able to talk to a northerner."

The Converse administration, meanwhile, was doing its part to make sure Bette stayed enrolled. Jane Richards, Converse's Dean of Students, wrote Bette's mother in Connecticut: "I am sure it has not been altogether easy for her to come into a school so far from home and to mingle with girls whose background is necessarily different by circumstances of geography. I do think she has made an adjustment and certainly many friends ... Bette seems to be quite well, which I know is important to you."

On Valentine's Day 1947 Bette wrote home to reveal that she wanted to fly to Florida when school let out and stay on Captiva Island with Ann's family for a few weeks. "Big daydreams," she said. As she prepared to pack up at the end of her freshman year, she wrote: "I know I do not want to come back here. Not because I'm not liked or because I don't like it but I can't believe it is really college ... I am glad I have decided to go to Stetson."

Her letters from Converse stop there, and yet my mother returned to Spartanburg in the fall. I know from her college annuals that she rejoined the synchronized swimming team and the Glee Club. After graduation she became a lifelong advocate for the College and a substantial enthusiastic donor. What could have happened in those next weeks to change the mind of that cocky New England girl who called Converse "so much like a prolonged girls camp"? The mystery confounded me. If my mother had transferred to Florida, she would have never met my father, and would I even be alive?

A second set of letters, carefully tied with string, hold clues to this mystery. On her first day at Captiva Island, the young woman who swatted away suitors like flies her freshman year ("I ain't so dumb," she wrote her mother about one who took her to a Converse dance) met an older boy from Chicago—a sailor and a student at Florida's Rollins College. His relentless love letters, sent throughout the summer of 1947, describe a whirlwind courtship, his excitement about her plans to attend college nearby, and his intent to marry her. "And your love," he wrote, "I wouldn't trade it for all the shipyards in the U.S. or all the schooners from the West Indies." The intensity of Johnny Corliss's love for my mother seems to grow with each long letter. But as the weeks roll by, he becomes increasingly desperate for a return of his affection. She is not responding. Toward the end of summer: "If I could get at you I'd knock your head clean off for not writing."

Did this man scare my mother into returning to Converse College? Were his feelings too intense for her? Did this chance meeting change the course of her life—and mine? By fall 1947 it is clear the Florida college boy has gotten the message. Bette is back at Converse, and he is frustrated—angry even—that she won't send him a photograph of the two of them together.

Perhaps this story is more complicated than that. After all, Ann changed her plans and returned to Converse in the fall, too. (She and my mother became lifelong friends.) And all the people who could confirm my theory about the over-zealous Chicagoan are gone. But what remains are the letters, and a young woman—my mother—who became real to me through the voluminous words she wrote, and the words that were written about her. The letters deepen the mythic story of her courageous venture South. This is her gift to me, a writer and a lover of good stories, and I touch her again through soft, thin parchment.



Bette and her father at her graduation from Converse.

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I knew that she had become a chemistry major, a member of the May Court and, defying the odds, president of the student body. But the stack of yellowed letters in her secretary told stories I had never heard.

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# Introducing the Lawson Academy of the Arts

by Paula Sigler Morgan '73

## About the author:

Paula Sigler Morgan received both her bachelor's of music and master's of music degrees from Converse. She began her career in the Pre-College in 1971 as a student teacher and continued as a piano faculty member until her appointment as director of the program in 1993.

This year, Converse announced that the Alia Lawson Pre-College Program of Music and Dance is now the Lawson Academy of the Arts. A name with more savvy to accurately reflect our student body, the "Lawson Academy of the Arts" is an appropriate title for growth and development in the years to come.



Michael Miller, director of the Childbloom Guitar Program, with his guitar class.

Why the change? Over the years our program had begun to offer additional opportunities for preschoolers and adults, and an increasing number of our students were falling into these categories. So naturally, this begged the question of whether the term "Pre-College" reflects all of our current students. A second question arose as to whether we intend to limit our offerings to music and dance. In fact, our summer Fine Arts Day Camp has always incorporated the full arts spectrum, offering classes in music, dance, theatre, visual arts and creative writing. Given our current size (1,189 registrations this fall), the depth of our programming, and the face of our student body, it seemed that the right time had come to consider a change.

While considering the new name, I reflected on what our founder, Mrs. Lawson, would think. She was a visionary who believed in taking advantage of opportunities and in embracing life and change. She was always moving forward and changing with the times – all the while keeping a keen eye on the past. In a sense, this is how I see

our program today. We're growing, moving forward, expanding our offerings and creating new opportunities – poised for new heights – all while never losing sight of our original mission to serve the Spartanburg community by providing "distinguished instruction and performance opportunities" in the arts.

As I look to the future of the Lawson Academy of the Arts, I am energized by the possibilities. One of Mrs. Lawson's favorite sayings was "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." Our new name is another exciting step in the journey she began in 1944 – leading to an outstanding arts program today and even greater opportunities for tomorrow.



Above: Palmetto Youth Orchestra  
Below: The Musical Petting Zoo introduces young children to a variety of musical instruments.



# A History of the Pre-College Program of Music and Dance

by Dr. Jeffrey R. Willis

## About the author:

Dr. Willis is Andrew Helmus Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History at Converse and currently serves as the College archivist. His teaching spanned a wide variety of topics in modern European history. In 2007, he received the South Carolina Governor's Award in the Humanities.



Irene Grau and Alia Lawson

During the early years of Converse College, Spartanburg area children frequently studied with a member of the Converse music faculty. In 1943 Alia Ross joined the School of Music faculty and was soon made responsible for music pedagogy. She overcame a shortage of teachers by using advanced music majors to teach the young people. This had the added advantage of giving Converse students experience in music pedagogy. Soon, graduates of the School of Music were also added to the teaching staff.

In 1944 Alia Ross formally launched the Converse College Pre-College Music Program. Located in the basement of Twichell Auditorium, the program overcame a shortage of pianos by using tables and cardboard keyboards. Eventually more pianos were acquired, but adequate space remained a problem.

In 1945 Alia Ross married Dr. Lionel Lawson. Under Mrs. Lawson's continued direction the program experienced phenomenal expansion, while she successfully sought and demanded better quarters. The program enjoyed several homes over the years, including the old library (today called the Carnegie Building), and three locations on North Fairview Avenue - the former president's home, the Carlisle home and the Johnson House (which today is the site of the Sally Abney Rose Physical Activity Complex). Dance classes had been added to the pre-college's offerings with the completion of Montgomery Student Activities Center and its dance studio in 1960. For a while the music program seemed destined to move up and down North Fairview Avenue, until the rebuilding of Twichell Auditorium in 1987-1989 and the addition of a pre-college wing.

Alia Lawson retired from the School of Music in 1977, but continued to direct the pre-college program until 1983. She was succeeded by Irene Grau from 1983 to 1993 and by Paula Sigler Morgan '73, who has overseen the continued expansion of the program since 1993. The program celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 1994 and was renamed the Alia Lawson Pre-College Program of Music and Dance in 1998.

# CONVERSE 101: Easing the Transition from High School to College

Transitioning from high school to college is a major change in the lives of students. While this transition comes easier for some, for others it brings challenges that can hinder their success. First-year students face new expectations that are quite different from those they experienced in high school. College allows for an enormous amount of freedom, and for the first time an unstructured environment. Incoming students face many questions, such as:

- Do I have to go to class?*
- How will I spend my free time? A nap possibly?*
- What will I eat for dinner?*
- Can I really stay up until 3 am?*

And the way they answer could make or break their first semester in college.

In an effort to help students transition successfully, Converse created "Converse 101" — a distinctive and collaborative approach to educating students about college life. The semester-long class is team – taught by a faculty member and a member of student life.



Team teachers Whitney Fisher, Director of First Year Student Programs, and Ann Pletcher, Associate Professor of Accounting, enjoy dinner with their Converse 101 class at Mellow Mushroom.

"The program gives students the opportunity to see faculty and student life staff working together, having fun and joining forces to help students succeed," said Dean of Students Molly Duesterhaus. "Combining faculty and student life perspectives in the classroom enables Converse to support and educate the whole student and better equips us to address both academic and social issues by drawing on the strengths of the team teaching pair."

Converse 101 covers such topics as study skills, citation and writing instruction, alcohol awareness, and time and stress management. It also provides an opportunity for students from diverse backgrounds to come together and build connections by sharing concerns. "In addition to instruction, it is important that we connect students with resources on campus," said Duesterhaus. "By covering topics that typically present challenges for incoming students, we help our students develop strategies to ensure success during the rest of their college experience."



# Partnership Brings Exquisite Sculptures to Spartanburg

Converse College, Wofford College and the Chapman Cultural Center have partnered to bring a taste of one of the world's most respected sculpture collections to Upstate South Carolina.

The renowned Brookgreen Gardens, based in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina, is a National Historic Landmark with the most significant collection of figurative sculpture, in an outdoor setting, by American artists in the world. Founded in 1931 by arts patron and scholar Archer Milton Huntington and his wife, renowned sculptor

Anna Hyatt Huntington, Brookgreen's 9,000-acre

property is home to more than 1,200 works by 350 sculptors. More than 230,000 guests from throughout the United States and other countries—Italy, Germany, England and Japan, just to name a few—visit Brookgreen annually.

In late September, 20 sculptures that had been carefully packed and put into large crates for their journey to Spartanburg were unveiled for the "Brookgreen Gardens Upstate SculpTOUR." The exhibit will continue through August 2009.



Sorrow by Leonda Finke

At Converse, eight works are exhibited in the lobby of Phifer Hall. The Chapman Cultural Center is housing seven works and five works are on display at Wofford College. Visitors to each location can also enjoy a twelve-minute documentary produced by South Carolina Educational Television.

"Spartanburg is growing as an art community, and Converse is right in the center of it," said President Fleming.

The eight works hosted by Converse are especially intriguing as they were sculpted by American women artists – each with their own fascinating story.

- **Charlotte Dunwiddie** was the first woman to be elected president of the National Sculpture Society.
- **Malvina Cornell Hoffman** was commissioned in 1930 by Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History to travel and model the various racial segments of the world. The project resulted in the exhibit Races of Man. (Her figure in the exhibit at Converse, Bali Dancer, is a component of Races of Man.)
- **Glenna Goodacre** is best known as the sculptor of the Vietnam Women's Memorial in Washington, DC.
- A permanent gallery of works by **Katharine Lane Weems** was established at the Boston Museum of Science to show her small animal bronzes and drawings.
- **Kristin C. Lothrop**, a student of Weems, enjoyed an extraordinary career as a portrait and animal sculptor.
- **Leonda Froehlich Finke**, a National Academician and a fellow of the National Sculpture Society, is a master of presenting the gamut of experiences that shape the lives of women. "Why focus on women? It's very much mine. I know from a woman's experience and do what I know."
- **Madeleine F. Park** specialized in modeling animals from life—at the circus, rodeo and zoo, or from her own menagerie at home.
- **Brenda Putnam** was awarded many monumental commissions in her career including a bust of Susan B. Anthony done for New York University and a memorial to the women of Virginia in Lynchburg.



Bali Dancer by Malvina Hoffman



Basket Dancer by Glenna Goodacre



## Elliott Offner: Brookgreen Board Member and Enthusiastic Supporter of Converse

Throughout the years, renowned sculpture artist Elliott Offner and his wife Rosemary have been champions for Converse. In 2003, Elliott served as artist-in-residence during January Term and was later retained by the College to spearhead the effort of erecting sculptures across the campus depicting prominent women in American history.

"We consider so many of Converse's students and faculty to be very good friends, and it thrills me that with the Brookgreen exhibit, the College is as energized as ever in introducing people to the finest of art," said Offner, who is also a Brookgreen trustee.

The Offners have also given Converse a host of prints by some of history's greatest artists including Rembrandt, Goya, Leonard Baskin, Reinhold Naegele and Rico LeBrun as well as a rare copy of *The Interaction of Color* by Josef Albers, which is considered by many to be a masterwork in twentieth-century art education. The sole stipulation with the delivery of the items is that they be actively used within the framework of instruction and learning rather than merely hung on a wall. "The pieces that we decided to give to Converse have been in our possession for a long time and are powerful teaching instruments," said Offner.

# Altruism at its BEST

Each volunteer experience has its own reward. For Converse students, faculty and staff – both individually and collectively – service to others is a way of life.

Gwen Stembridge '10 of Atlanta, Georgia is a Bonner Leader at Converse who volunteers at the Charles Lea Center ten hours a week. Serving in her community allows her to connect with people she may not have otherwise met. She helps facilitate the art, music, gym and library classes in the Parsons Day Habilitation Program at the center. She also uses her experiences to educate her fellow Converse sisters about the challenges individuals with disabilities face on a daily basis. For Gwen, awareness is a key component of motivating others to volunteer. "If I think of service as a challenge and vehicle for making the world a better place for me and others to live, I am more motivated to put my best effort into it."

Another student community volunteer is Claire Hughes '10 of Phenix City, Alabama. Claire is part of the Daniels Leadership Program, and was a leader in Summer Serve this year where she helped incoming freshmen acclimate into the Converse community. Claire has always loved volunteering. "Not only does it help mold you as a person but it shows the community that the institution you represent educates young adults to care about world and community issues."

Converse students, faculty, and staff find that team spirit is strengthened and morale is boosted when they work together to help the greater community. The Division of Student Life volunteered with Habitat for Humanity for two hours each Wednesday morning

*Below: Members of Crescent, a service organization for sophomores*



*Above and below: Gwen Stembridge '10 helps facilitate classes at the Parsons Day Habilitation Program at the Charles Lea Center.*



during June and July. They donated 89.5 "sweat equity" hours to Vivia "Cookie" Bigsby, a Sodexho employee and single mother who has completed 210 of the 400 work hours required to move into her new three-bedroom home.

Crescent, a sophomore service organization, raised \$4,000 last year for The Haven Shelter during the 1889 Week Coin War, a fundraising project in which the undergraduate classes compete to raise the most change for charity. Crescent donated both their proceeds and their time, using a third of the raised funds to remodel a large children's playroom and a room allocated for a family. "From this experience we definitely learned to sacrifice for service," says Tiana Pires, last year's president of Crescent. "The Haven project was a 13-hour undertaking that we managed to complete in one day."

These volunteer workers are true testaments that people can make a difference, one good heart at a time.

# Three TALL Women (never mind their height)

by Dr. Rosa C. Shand, Larrabee Professor Emerita of English

## About the author:

Rosa Shand taught English at Converse from 1985 to 2001. Her novel, *The Gravity of Sunlight* (2000), was named a New York Times Notable Book of the Year and earned both the Best Fiction and Best First Fiction Awards from the Texas Institute of Letters. She's held a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and her stories have appeared in such journals as *The Southern Review*, *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, and *Shenandoah*.

Sheena Spencer speaks evocatively, echoing the Greeks, the Know Thyself. Plato himself informed us that the object of our search lies in ourselves. But then, more flat-footed, are Karl Menninger's practical words (when asked to advise a person on the verge of a nervous breakdown): "Lock up your house, go across the railroad tracks, find someone in need, and do something for them." Both lines run in my head. I don't myself manage to follow their advice, yet I am persuaded the survival of humanity depends on those who do. And now I have the luck to tell of three such persons (not, of course, implying nervous breakdowns, nor that their beneficiaries need live across the tracks): Converse alumnae Debbie Halter Bell '74, Sheena Spencer '03 and Jaime Powell '99, who have each nurtured their communities. Their openings have come through local, particular communities, though who will ever know how far reverberations spread; for all we are and all we do generates influence, want it or not, claim it or not, for the worse or (here) for the better.

"You already have your life mission inscribed in your spirit, take the time to read it."  
- Sheena Spencer



Debbie Bell, Executive Director of the South Carolina Children's Theatre

Debbie Bell, in Greenville, South Carolina, has been with the South Carolina Children's Theatre for twenty years and is now their executive director, having begun voluntarily as stage manager. But there had indeed been background helping Debbie recognize her way. As a child she'd begun putting on plays with other children in the basement of her house, an act intriguing me since, some time ago in England, the Brontës and the Austens had done precisely the same – which led to rather lasting productivity. And my own daughter, from being a child somewhat withdrawn, began staging plays with neighbors; on stage – thus "wearing a mask," thus wearing the shoes of another – she quickly spell-bound the audience and blossomed from then on.

It's theatre that often gives a child her first confident sense of self, that essential feeling that she too is heard; that she too can have influence, that she too can BE and have a place to belong. Debbie boldly underscores this role of children's theatre – through acting (their shows, like *Annie*, are staged at the Peace Center), music, dancing and co-operating. And she strongly supports the theatre's outreach programs, offering residences to children with psychiatric and behavioral disorders, working with medically fragile or dependent children, going into schools to help develop speaking skills and self control, including work with gangs. One hardcore gang member was reduced to tears when he saw the play reflecting what his own life had been. And that example is profound, for awareness is profound: we see ourselves, we begin to know ourselves, only when a mirror is held up to us (coming back to that ultimate wisdom, knowing ourselves, as the Greeks demonstrated through their theatre). From ancient times, the play has been named the mirror, for the self and for the culture.

And that mirror is continually healing. Debbie watched one child overcome his stuttering through acting. Another, unable physically to speak, yet managed, through movements, to hold the audience rapt. One boy with extreme behavioral problems found his gift for music and ended up conducting the orchestra from time to time. All of these outcomes help lead to Debbie's advice: Find the work you love.

Sheena Spencer is actually from Eatonville, Florida, the home of Zora Neal Hurston, but now a part of urban Orlando. Sheena stepped away from teaching – not from discouragement, she's able to say: "I get such a high when all my precious darlings come filing into the classroom" – but because she found her way to college through an Upward Bound program and feels the call to open that same avenue to others, even when her temporarily leaving teaching has meant taking a cut in pay. She sees Upward Bound as the contemporary civil rights movement, in which educators work to close the achievement gap of urban

(largely minority) students, those who – as they are rarely encouraged to reach beyond high school – are caught in the cycle of poverty. Upward Bound identifies students in early adolescence and follows them through the college years. And since the Rollins College Upward Bound program began (where Sheena is now working), year after year more than 95% of the graduating high school seniors enter the college they choose. Some go on to become lawyers, college professors, and leaders of Upward Bound.

Sheena herself, after college, was planning to stay in Spartanburg until her best friend's father wondered out loud "why do

we who make it out of our rough neighborhoods go off and get an education to better ourselves but forget to come back to our community to help another make it out?" Sheena heard, and she packed for Orlando. But she's the first to admit her difficulties with college (she'd made good grades in high school), and after her freshman year she left and worked a year, which taught her the cost of her skedaddling. She called Dean Lever and without hesitation was re-accepted to Converse. Now, she sees, admitting her own rough road has been deeply beneficial to the students she's supporting. Even more, in looking back at her Converse experience, she's found the humility to acknowledge that her advisor Karen Carmean, the teacher she most feared ("She told me I was brilliant but lazy"), was the person who most inspired her, and who she now understands was most honest with her. And so, to the wisdom of her advice in the epigraph (above), Sheena playfully adds, "Even the worst student can be a great success in life."



*Sheena Spencer teaches senior students how to research costs and financial aid opportunities at colleges.*

and spirit. Yet perhaps Jaime most strongly articulates the unity of body, mind, and spirit – that all three elements of our personhood are inextricably one.

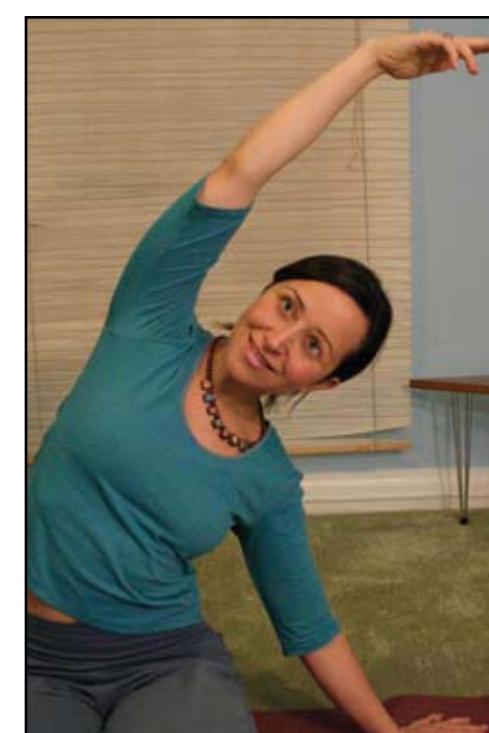
The summer after Converse, Jaime worked at a weight-loss camp for children. One day the campers wouldn't budge, so Jaime adjusted. She played Celtic harp music, and she led a head-to-toe relaxation exercise, guiding the campers to alternately tense and release their muscles. She herself began experiencing the mind-body connection while tears streamed down the campers' cheeks. She grasped: the children were dependent on their TV, computers, walkmans – all adding up to disassociation from the body, to a constant need for stimulation. But Jaime understood that the body was wise. She realized they (we) must be still and listen and accept its guidance. It was then Jaime found her life's work.

Jamie began practicing a vigorous form of yoga, becoming a personal trainer as well as a tri-athlete. Then, while training on her bicycle, a truck ran into her, leaving her badly injured. Remarkably, little more than a year later, she returned to yoga. The accident, she says, helped her become more present and more patient, less competitive, more self-reflective and tuned in to subtleties. She now focuses on holistic health, treating the body, mind and spirit as a single system.

For one more rather striking challenge, she and her husband undertook to walk the Appalachian Trail (the couple – both having come through crises – have taken steps to turn their dreams into actualities). And when I talked with her recently, she was preparing for a nightlong vigil for peace. Both these bold undertakings, the trail and the all-night vigil, make me think that Jaime is rather in tune with Yeats, the poet who set himself "to do the thing most difficult of all things not impossible."

Jaime admits to her years of confusion, to waging war on her body, mind and spirit. But she rediscovered wisdom from within, and – for the sake of joy and health, of love and acceptance for others and herself – she's been teaching the accessing of that wisdom.

The three women do the work they love, and their enriched communities have loved them back.



*Jaime Powell strikes a yoga pose.*

# CONVERSE NEWS

## Best of Show

Dr. Scott Robbins is a funny guy. Well known at Converse for his quick wit and uncanny ability to bring comic relief to even the most serious academic settings, Robbins is hardly the bashful type. But, ask him to talk about the expertise he brings to the Petrie School of Music and the tremendous award he received this year and the talkative and talented composer is unusually quiet.

Although he is reticent about expounding on his latest accomplishment, Converse is proud to applaud Robbins for earning first place in the Montgomery, Alabama ClefWorks, Inc. 2008 International Compositional Competition. Vying against more than 115 submissions from musicians representing China, the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Greece, Portugal, Australia and Argentina, Robbins was named the winning composer for his work, "Quartet for Violin, Viola, Cello, and Piano" (1999/2008).

For the 44-year-old Robbins, Associate Dean of Converse's Petrie School of Music and Associate Professor of Musicology and Composition, the ClefWorks prize is the latest in an impressive string of over 50 compositional awards, including multiple awards from ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers) and commissions from the South Carolina Music Teachers Association, the Second International Sergei Prokofiev Composition Competition, Yale University's Norfolk National Composition Prize, National Association of Composer's Young Composers Award, ASCAP Foundation Grant to Young Composers, American Music Center Composer Assistance Award, and the Florida Individual Artist Fellowship. In 2005 he became the first faculty member from the Petrie School of Music to receive the College's O'Herron Faculty Excellence Award.

Bravo Dr. Robbins!



Scott Robbins

## Best of State

Barely four months into her newly retired life, Katharine Stephens Slemenda '66 was back on campus this past September for a very special occasion. In commendation of her shining 30-year career as director of the College's Deaf Education program and her exemplary work on behalf of the deaf and hard-of-hearing throughout the Southeast, Slemenda was awarded South Carolina's prestigious Order of the Silver Crescent, the state's highest award for volunteer and community service.

In a surprise presentation conducted during the College's Formal Opening Convocation on September 9, State House Representative Rita Allison spoke on behalf of Governor Mark Sanford praising Slemenda for her tireless efforts of the past three decades and her inspiring and innovative work in the field of deaf education. "Katharine Slemenda's leadership has enabled Converse to consistently produce teachers who are well-prepared to meet the educational needs of students who are deaf and hard of hearing," said Allison. "Her quiet dedication to the field of deaf education has had a resounding impact on the profession. Her work both in and out of the classroom has enriched the lives of countless South Carolina citizens and has transformed the educational opportunities for the deaf and hard of hearing in the state."

President Betsy Fleming echoed the sentiments of the Governor's office and applauded Slemenda for her selfless service to others and her tremendous contributions to the College as a member of the faculty and as a Converse alumna. Despite Slemenda's obvious delight in sharing the day with Converse family and friends, when it was suggested that she re-think her plans for retirement and return to the College, she smiled and quickly changed the subject to talk of gardening and grandchildren. Leave it to Katharine Slemenda to make these new endeavors look easy.



Dr. Jeffrey Barker congratulates Katharine Slemenda



## The Anointing of Dracula Lures Record-Setting Audience

Amid a setting of goblins and ghosts and goth-tinged rock songs, Theatre/Converse's Halloween production of *The Anointing of Dracula* drew more people to Hazel B. Abbott Theatre than any single show in the past decade.

The production, which ran October 24 – November 1, was an original written by Brent Glenn, Assistant Professor of Theatre. "We wanted to create an atmosphere that is conducive for people to be creeped-out. Jumping out from behind to scare someone is startling; our intention was to frighten," said Glenn, who also directed the production.

Featured in the production was a cast of thirty-five members of the undead and a four-piece band performing popular rock songs by acts such as Garbage, the Toadies and Evanescence.

Although *The Anointing of Dracula* is loosely based upon Bram Stoker's classic Dracula, Glenn says that he "wanted to write something original. I knew that the ideas of vampires would be fun. I liken *The Anointing of Dracula* to a Catholic mass run by vampires, and it does a good job of updating Bram Stoker's version and makes it more accessible to today's audiences."

"I scare easily so I thought it was good," said Camrey Oczkowski '10 of Wellford, South Carolina. "Everyone in the cast had a lot of discipline, talent and passion. They performed wonderfully."

## Alumna Returns to Direct Converse II Program

Laurie Giles Hillstock '96 has always been a natural leader. Prior to replacing Martha Rogers as the Director of Converse II, she managed distance learning at Clemson University and directed summer school at Virginia Tech. An English major and computer science minor, Hillstock's Converse education helped shape her into the leader she is today. "I think my time at Converse helped me to become broad-minded, patient, straightforward and forward-thinking. I also learned the value of having strong ethics, perseverance and displaying sincerity in my actions. In my opinion, all of these characteristics are critical for quality leadership." Hillstock also holds a master's degree in human resource development from Clemson University and expects to complete her PhD in educational leadership from Clemson by Summer 2009.



Laurie Giles Hillstock '96

Serving in her new position since August 2008, Hillstock's goal is to grow the Converse II program. Converse II is an affordable undergraduate academic program that allows working and family-oriented women over the age of 24 to complete a bachelor's degree, participate in continuing education opportunities, seek training for a specific specialty or take courses for personal development. The most prevalent majors among Converse II students are education, art and business. Many adult learners benefit from their employer covering all or some of the tuition costs.

Hillstock hopes to make the Converse II program more conducive to working adults by increasing the number of course offerings administered through distance and hybrid learning, and by working closely with faculty and staff on student advisement to increase awareness about various student activities and services available to Converse II students.

"Words cannot express the level of humility that comes with being involved in helping with the educational experience of so many adult women on a daily basis," Hillstock comments.

## Meet the 2008-2009 Converse Bloggers

This year Converse has two returning bloggers, Anne Fagge '09 and Laurann Gallitto '09, and three new ones, Carrie Jackson '10, Nicole Dumouchel '10 and Emily Schafer '12. Each of these women hopes to influence prospective students by sharing online journals about their lives at Converse, the College's traditions, sense of community and sisterhood. Their reflections are stimulating, humorous accounts about various topics, from surviving freshman orientation, watching Chuck Norris on a Furman stage and discovering a ten-foot pink pachyderm on campus, to competing in a cross country event and enjoying a pumpkin-filled fall break adventure.

Each blogger is working to provide web visitors with a genuine insight into what college life is like. "I think that blogging holds the potential to serve a variety of purposes," Anne Fagge says. "In this instance, it is a great tool for giving prospective students an inside look into the lives and thoughts of a cross-section of students' blogs offer a clearer picture of the realities of campus life."

Laurann Gallitto blogs about her shared experiences with friends, and her intellectual and emotional growth as a woman. "I feel prospective students would like to see that they can fit

into our community while still standing out in their own unique ways by developing their own talents," she says. "I think parents want to see their daughters attending an institution that can help them develop into independent and intelligent individuals. Perhaps a short blog entry can make an important impact in that decision."

Emily Schafer composes blogs about people she encounters on campus. "I love talking about my conversations with people, the funny or awesome things they say, the things they do...the people here fascinate me." Nicole Dumouchel also expresses her love for people in her blogs by highlighting the strong sense of community that Converse fosters. "I feel that I am connected to Converse in a very deep way, not just in the residence halls or across campus or in the classrooms, but always and everywhere."



Clockwise from top: Laurann Gallitto '10, Anne Fagge '09, Emily Schafer '12, Carrie Jackson '10 and Nicole Dumouchel '10. Photo by Steve Fincher

Converse is lucky to have these strong, intelligent women representing the College this year. Their work is profound because of their common love for Converse. Carrie Jackson says, "This institution

can not be defined by one particular individual...I am not Nicole, Anne, Laurann or Emily, but we all share a love of Converse...I hope my blog reflects the full spectrum of my experiences here and encourages prospective students to join this strong, diverse group of women."

To read the blogs, visit <http://www.converse.edu/blog>.

## Converse Unveils Refreshed Logo

Converse recently unveiled a refreshed version of the College logo, featuring an updated rendering of the iconic Wilson Hall.

"With the aim of advancing Converse visibility and broadening our reach through online technology and print publications, the logo update will enable greater flexibility with its use, giving us more options for applying it in various formats while maintaining brand consistency," said Converse President Betsy Fleming.

The campus community celebrated the unveiling by sporting their school spirit with Converse logo buttons.



# Taking Creative Risks

When Brent Hurley graduated from a small liberal arts college eight years ago, he planned to backpack around Europe. He had his airline ticket and was all set to leave on September 14, 2001. On September 11, the attacks on the twin towers and the Pentagon changed his plans.

Brent decided to pile all of his belongings into his car and drive to Silicon Valley in Northern California in search of opportunities. He arrived with no job, very little money, and a newly-minted degree in philosophy and finance. Using contacts gained from summer internships at the internet company PayPal, Brent joined an investment firm but soon sought more challenges. He could go back to school for his MBA — or he could take the same money and strike out on his own.

Most people would have stopped right there. By the time Brent was considering a Silicon Valley start-up, the “dot-com bubble” was bursting and high-tech companies were well on their way to losing \$5 trillion in market value.

Brent's brother Chad, who had designed the original PayPal logo, and friends Steve Chen and Jawed Karim, were toying with an idea for sending videos over the internet, and Brent joined the discussions. Soon, YouTube was born. Brent was the first full-time employee and as he told students during his recent visit to Converse, he took a chance, not knowing if he would get paid anytime soon — or anytime at all.

Taking that creative risk — seeing the problem of sending videos as an opportunity — paid off. Fifteen months of meteoric growth later, the founders of YouTube sold the company to Google, Inc., for \$1.65 billion. Chad, his friends, and Brent became instant celebrities. Today, Brent continues to work with the Strategic Partner Development team at YouTube. Brent Hurley visited Converse in October to share with students and others the YouTube story. Creativity, curiosity and openness to new experiences were constant themes, as was the importance of his liberal arts education. Hurley told students that he uses his background in philosophy and finance every day, combining rigorous, analytical thinking with creativity. As he said to his former philosophy professor and now - Converse Vice President for Academic Affairs Jeff Barker, “being interested, engaged, in touch with the world around you, not afraid to try new things, and injecting yourself into new, challenging situations and environments is the real secret.”

Converse is in on that secret.

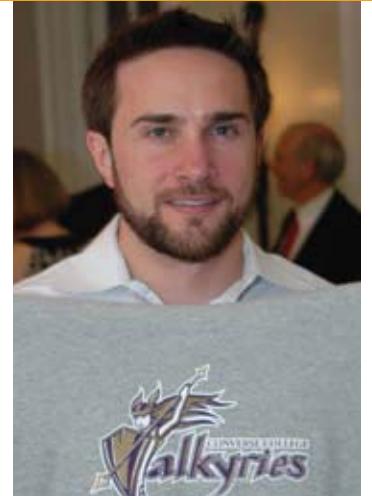
## Kuhn Hall Goes Green

The transformation of Kuhn Hall into the College's first green building is on schedule for completion in May, making it ready for students and faculty in June 2009. According to Mark Osinga, Facilities Planner at Converse, a new heating and air conditioning system, an energy efficient lighting system, a new waste disposal structure and interior finishes were selected expressly for their friendliness to the environment.

“New duct work and insulation have been installed and wall framing is in progress. New floor drains and plumbing piping is moving forward, small mechanical rooms have been built and a mezzanine has been installed in the attic for HVAC equipment,” said Osinga.

The slate tiles that have been installed on the ridge of the Kuhn rooftop bear the autographs of members of the College community. The tiles were made available for signing immediately following the September 9th Opening Convocation.

The entire operation is being carried out through LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) requirements, providing independent third-party verification to ensure the highest of performance standards.

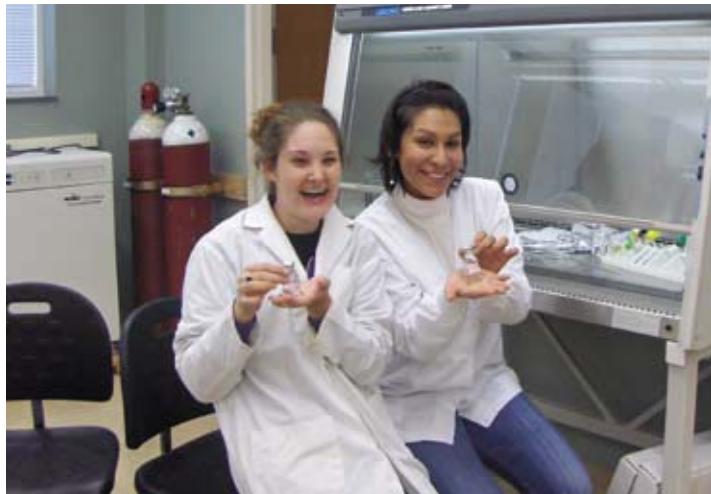


Brent Hurley, a new Converse Valkyries fan



# Research with the Great Cell Biology Class

by Dr. Neval Erturk, Assistant Professor of Biology



Karissa Terry '10 and Jannett Figueroa '10

As I reviewed the syllabus with my cell biology class this fall, explaining the expectations for the lectures and labs in detail, eight motivated Converse students took notes with great interest. Their semester-long research project aimed to survey three South Carolina lakes with different levels of pollution advisories for the toxicity of the water and silt extracts. Their interest was piqued and we enjoyed a lively discussion as we made plans to begin our research.

After finalizing our experimental design we packed our shovels, sample containers, cameras and backpacks for a field trip and drove to Lakes Keowee, Jocassee and Hartwell. All three lakes are man-made and located in Upstate South Carolina. They are popular recreation areas for boating, swimming, canoeing and fishing. Advisories due to polychlorinated biphenyl contamination for Lake Hartwell and methyl mercury contamination for Lake Jocassee have been in place for several years, and thus no fish of any species should be eaten from either lake.

During our field trip, biology majors Karissa Terry '10 and Laura Morton '09 noticed that no warnings were posted around the lakes. "This research has extremely important applications as it can be used to raise awareness of the

levels of chemical pollutants which are contaminating area lakes," Karissa says.

Traditional classes provide a strong grounding in skills and knowledge for students, but hands-on projects such as this prepare our students to evaluate "real life" situations where their responsibilities will extend beyond performing a biological test. That is why we highly encourage our students to get involved in research projects.

Converse students value research experiences as well. Biology major Elizabeth (Lizzy) Powell '10 says "It's great to get to do research projects that are applicable to daily life, like the field trip to Lakes Jocassee, Hartwell and Keowee. The results are out there for you to discover, not in the back of the book. It was also fun to get to hang out with classmates and dig in the mud."

Biochemistry major Mallory Begley '09 adds, "Dr. Erturk is giving us an amazing opportunity to be part of an educational and practical project. I am excited to see the results and hope to be able to present and publish our findings. The project has put an interesting and enjoyable spin on the typical laboratory setting."

Incorporating research and scholarship into undergraduate education deepens the learning experience. Research projects prepare students to be informed, engaged citizens and successful professionals in the increasingly complex and diverse world. Besides, I really love doing research with our students. They are intelligent, dedicated and fun to work with.

*Below: The cell biology class conducted field work at Lakes Keowee, Jocassee and Hartwell for their research project.*



# The Miss Gee Society:

## Recognizing Your Planned Gift for Converse

Few people in the history of Converse College merit more attention than Mary Wilson Gee, Class of 1893. Beyond those hallowed names like Dexter Edgar Converse and Benjamin F. Wilson, it is Miss Gee who is best remembered by the sisterhood of Converse women — remembered for seven decades of devotion and dedication to generations of young women and revered by all who knew her as the embodiment of the spirit of Converse. Indeed, the story of Mary Wilson Gee — who arrived on the Converse campus in the fall of 1890 and remained until her death in 1963 — and the story of Converse College are one and inseparable.



MISS GEE  
Miss Gee was Professor of Latin from 1893 – 1963.  
Photo circa 1904

The Miss Gee Society, formerly the Converse Legacy Society, is comprised of individuals who support the mission and traditions of Converse College and who share a desire to leave a lasting legacy to Converse by including the College in their will or by making a planned gift. The Miss Gee Society includes some of Converse's closest and most generous friends, and the College is profoundly honored and grateful to be remembered by them.

As lasting evidence of her commitment to the institution with which her personal story is so intertwined, Miss Gee's first thought in preparing her Last Will and Testament was of Converse. In her will, she provided:

ITEM ONE: I give and bequeath to Converse College all my library and also all furniture and equipment used in connection with the Converse College Post Office.

In the course of a lifetime it is what we offer of ourselves that gives meaning to the tangible things we leave behind. The tokens we share with others may be a testimony to what we value, but long after we are gone, they are treasured because of who we were.

If you have joined Miss Gee in including Converse College in your estate plans, please let us know so that you can be properly thanked and welcomed into The Miss Gee Society. For more information, contact Dianne Ansley, Executive Director of Development and Director of Gift Planning, at (864) 577-2088 or [dianne.ansley@converse.edu](mailto:dianne.ansley@converse.edu).



Above: Miss Gee as Dean of Students, a position she held from 1916-1944  
Left: Miss Gee as Professor of Latin in her later years



# HONOR and MEMORIAL GIFTS

The following honor and memorial gifts were received between May 1, 2008 - October 31, 2008.

## HONOR GIFTS

### 2008 MODEL LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

Miss Rachel Anne Segars '96

### CATHERINE HAMRICK BEATTIE '45

Mr. William Barnet III and The Fullerton Foundation, Inc.

### ANDREW M. BLANCHARD

Hub-Bub.Com

### HARRIETT ZIEGLER CHRISTIAN '63

Ms. Laird Whitmire Green

### GEORGIA CHRISTIE

Mrs. Electra Chakides Julias '57

### CLASS OF 1936

Mrs. Ernie Holland White '36

### LEAANN AND DEXTER CLEVELAND

Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Lehner  
(Sara Ellis '74)

### NANCY BAIN COTE' '79

Mrs. Elisabeth Kinney McNeil '89

### ROBERTA TIMMONS DANIEL '71

Mrs. Catherine Clarkson Robertson

### DR. ANITA P. DAVIS

Mrs. Joe Ann Lever

### PRESIDENT BETSY FLEMING

Mrs. Elisabeth Kinney McNeil '89

### DR. HAROLD E. FLEMING

Mrs. Candace Fleming Chazen '72

### DR. PATRICIA S. FOY '77

Dr. Janice Christine Wiggins '76

### SUSAN ANNETTE GAYLORD '79

Mr. and Mrs. Russell M. Gaylord

### CAROLYN G. HAMLIN

Mrs. Terry Hamlin Batson '92

### DR. FLEETWOOD AND JANE HASSELL

Dr. Ansley Hassell Boggs '77 and

Mr. Mayo Mac Boggs

### DR. SUZANNE CAMERON HURLEY '61

Mrs. Jane Marion Wilson 2004

### CATHERINE CULLER INABNIT '68

Ms. Sarah Evans Lockwood '69

### NANCY THAYER JENNINGS '63

Ms. Laird Whitmire Green

### MR. AND MRS. GEORGE DEAN JOHNSON, JR.

(Susan Phifer '65)

Mr. and Mrs. Don Wildman

(Alanna Ivey '71)

### SUSAN PHIFER JOHNSON '65

Mrs. Lyttleton Rich Hollowell '67

### DR. SHARON E. LAMBERT

Mrs. Joe Ann Lever

### PEGGY BRADFORD LONG '49

Mrs. Martha Paxton Beale '49

Mrs. Kitty Peeler Carson '49

### ANN DAVIDSON MARION '47

Mrs. Ann Marion Lorenz '80

### SARAH MARION 2008

Mrs. Ann Marion Lorenz '80

### SUSAN SECORD MARION '80

Mrs. Ann Marion Lorenz '80

### JOY JOYNER POE '75

Mrs. Marjorie Moser Rankin '75

### IVY L. POPE '89

Mrs. Elisabeth Kinney McNeil '89

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

### ROSEMARY BLAKELY ALLEN '48

Mrs. Polly Hill Woodham '51

### FRANCES GUESS BARR 1919

Mrs. Nancy Barr Carson '52

### DIANE MALLORY BEARD '76

Dr. Janice Christine Wiggins '76

### HARRIET SCHOFIELD BRYANT '65

Mrs. Ann Trammell Holmes '65

### ELIZABETH JENNINGS CAUGHMAN '30

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fred Barclay

Mrs. Belinda H. Beard and Administrative and

Civil Division of the US Attorney's Office

Mr. and Mrs. Clinch Heyward Belsler, Jr.

(Mary Rainey '69)

Ms. Carrie A. McCann and Mr. William A. Brown

Ms. Barbara J. Buckley and Mr. Scott H. Randell

Mr. and Mrs. Huber E. Butler

Dr. and Mrs. John A. Cooper

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin L. Crumbliss

Mrs. Genevieve Steele Cummings '63

Ms. Margaret S. Davis

Ms. Margaret B. Devan

Ms. Ann W. Dibble

Ms. Shirah Caughman Dunphy

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas B. Dunphy

Dr. and Mrs. Walter B. Edgar

John T. Fox and Emory Healthcare Executive Administration

(Nell Higdon '63)

Mr. J. B. Friday, Jr.

Ms. Caroline Gordon Grimball '68

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Herlong

The Rev. and Mrs. Haywood D. Holderness

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Hudson

(Daisy Barron '58)

Mrs. Kathleen K. Lightsey

Mrs. Madge Graydon Major '45

Mr. and Mrs. Champney A. McNair

Mr. and Mrs. C. Whitaker Moore

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Parrott

Mr. and Mrs. Michael B. Prevost

Mrs. Sarah Adderton Redd '62

Dr. Ethna R. Reid and Dr. Mervin R. Reid

Ms. Nants Harvard Reynolds

Mrs. Mary K. Rickenbaker

Mr. and Mrs. James P. Ritchie II

Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Ritchie

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Ritchie, Jr.

Dr. and Mrs. Malcolm H. Rourk, Jr.

Mrs. Margaret Charles Stubbs '63

Ms. Phyllis I. Supple

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Tuller, Jr.

Mrs. Jane Berry Unti

Ms. Donna L. Ware

Dr. and Mrs. Barney L. Williams, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Wilson, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wilson

(Rhetta Fair '63)

Mr. and Mrs. David G. Wolff

MIN MURRAY HASELDEN CHEVES '68

Mrs. Elizabeth Morris Howell '68

MARTHA WEBB DALE '56

Mr. and Mrs. John Beem

Dr. Charles M. Webb

DR. PERRY DANIELS

Mrs. Catherine Hawkins Thompson '88

CORNELIA WATSON DASHER '65

Mrs. Cornelia W. Pruitt

BYAH THOMASON DOXEY '48

Mrs. Caroline Brown Bumbarger '48

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond B. Thomason

(Fannie Longley '50)

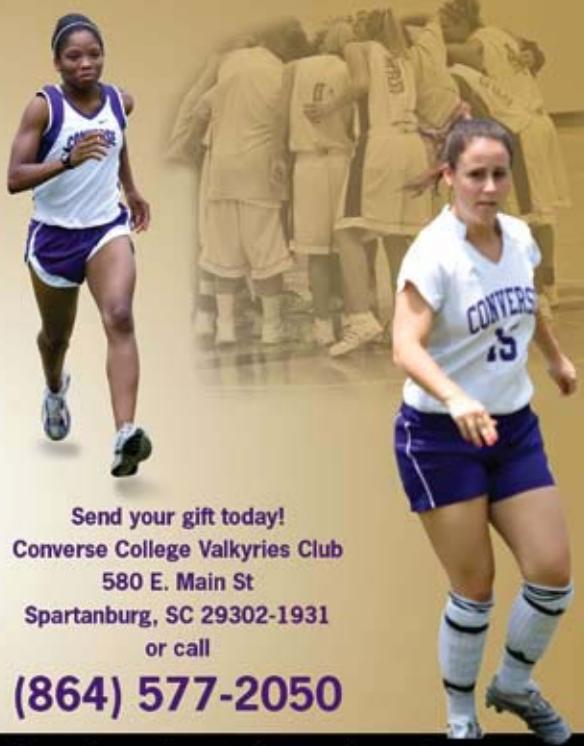
Mrs. Kirby Thomason Tyson

# JOIN the Valkyries Club and SUPPORT a growing Converse sports tradition.



With your support, the Valkyries are able to

- Compete in an environment designed to achieve high goals in the classroom and in the playing arena.
- Cover costs associated with athletic equipment and facility upgrades



Send your gift today!

Converse College Valkyries Club

580 E. Main St

Spartanburg, SC 29302-1931

or call

**(864) 577-2050**

"Converse athletics is an integral part of my college experience. The family - like community of the athletics department is essential to my college journey and has been an unforgettable positive guide through these exciting years. Volleyball has also taught me important life skills such as time management, healthy living and dedication. Without Converse athletics, I would never have the chance to experience such unique leadership opportunities and learn such great life lessons."

- Marisa Coleman '10, volleyball



## MARY PORTER ECHOLS FARMER

Mrs. Porter Farmer White '67

## GEORGE RALPH GRIFFIN

Mrs. Nancy Brown Duke '55

## VELMA HOOD MAYER '24

Mrs. Elisabeth Kinney McNeil '89

## NICOLE M. MCGILL 2010

Mrs. Kimberly Dines Campbell

## BONITA P. MCLAURIN '68

Mrs. Mary Joyner Taylor '60

## BETSEY MALLARD MEWBORN '51

Mrs. Mary Gillespie Adams '51

## TWEETIE LEWIS MOORE '54

Mrs. Sarah Locke Cudd '54

## FAIRILYN NEWCOMB '72

Ms. Anne Brock Walker '72

## LAURA NANCE MCCAUHRIN PICKENS '35

Mrs. Laura Pickens Wagner '64

## JOAN McDONALD SLAUGHTER QUINN

Mrs. Sandra Sherard Bethea '67

## GEORGE BENJAMIN RAWLS

Mr. and Mrs. Todd Bond

(Wallis Crum '87)

## CORA TURNER MORRAH RICE '45

Mrs. Betty McCarty Edwards '45

## MRS. TODD ROBINS

Ms. Kathryn Finch Godbold '72

## DR. LESLIE W. SHELTON, JR.

Mr. and Mrs. Todd Bond

(Wallis Crum '87)

## DAVID BOMAR SMITH

Dr. George Truett Hollis '50

## DR. JOHN W. STEVENSON

Mrs. Virginia Millner Kemp '64

## VAUGHN HODNETT THOMAS '63

Ms. Patricia Parsons Hickerson '64

Mrs. Joan Foster McKeown '64

## L. PAUL TRASK III

Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson Bentley '81

Mrs. Lucia Ann Carmichael Bishop '83

Mrs. Frances Reaves Burroughs '81

Mrs. Carol Upchurch Campbell '81

Mrs. Vivianne Lee Carey '81

Mrs. Karen Corbett Cheatham '81

Mrs. Jane Rinehart Crosby '81

Ms. Constance Le Monte Deal '81

Mrs. Gay Parks Dilz '81

Mrs. Elaine Folline Epting '81

Mrs. Kimberly Waugh Gravlee '81

Mrs. Julie Martin Hanes '81

## Ms. Sherrerd Hartness '81

Mrs. Susan Halligan Patterson '81

Mrs. Linda Frierson Perrow '81

Mrs. Ruth Jones Soliday '81

Mrs. Marianna MacIntyre Taylor '81

Mrs. Meredith Carmichael Trask '81

Miss Claudette Regina Vaught '81

## DR. JOHN R. TURNBULL

Dr. James A. Hymas

Mrs. Katharine Stephens Slemenda '66

## ELIZABETH HUBBARD WAKEFIELD '50

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Baehr

Mr. and Mrs. Lamar Baehr

Mr. and Mrs. James V. Burchfield

Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Lehner

(Sara Ellis '74)

Mrs. Polly Hill Woodham '51

## MR. AND MRS. L. E. WIGGINS

Dr. Janice Christine Wiggins '76

## C. RUDOLPH WOODS

Mr. and Mrs. Todd Bond

(Wallis Crum '87)

## BERNICE WYATT WYATT '53

Mrs. Marilyn Mateer Sherrill '53

**HONOR and MEMORIAL GIFTS**

# Alumnae President's Message



To say that the Converse community is multidimensional is quite an understatement! The obvious Converse community embodies all faculty, staff and students past, present and future. Then there's another Converse community comprised of all the children and adults who've been privileged to receive instruction through the Lawson Academy of the Arts (formerly the pre-college), which leads me to think of all the people who come to Converse for performances, gallery shows and other various offerings throughout the year. Of course there are smaller Converse communities sprinkled throughout the country where clusters of alumnae reside. And I love hearing about groups of alumnae who have regular "meetings" of their own Converse community at the beach, in the mountains, or wherever they can get together to celebrate the Converse tie that binds!

When I think of all the ways in which my life has been touched by the Converse community I realize I am oh-so richly blessed! I grew up in Spartanburg and remember the campus before it was surrounded by its current beautiful brick and iron gates—to me, Converse has always been a "jewel in Spartanburg's crown."

Additionally, several family members are Converse alumnae and my father has served on the Board of Trustees almost as long as I can remember, so I've heard Converse stories my entire life! If that weren't enough, I had the privilege of taking riding lessons from the Converse equestrian trainer and enjoyed participating in horse shows in the area now occupied by our new tennis courts and soccer/lacrosse field. On top of all that, several of my favorite counselors at Camp Pinnacle and Camp Greystone were Converse students—and how fun it's been to reconnect with several of them at reunions. Have you noticed I'm just now getting to the point that I mention my wonderful years as a student and all the lifelong friendships forged then?

As I reflect on the many, many ways my life has been influenced by the Converse community I can't help but think that Converse has done so much to shape me into the woman I am and how grateful I am to all the Converse people who have played a role along the way—faculty, staff, fellow students and friends of the College. And now I challenge you to think about all the ways your life has been touched by the Converse community. As you take that walk down memory lane, I trust your face is breaking into a spontaneous ear-to-ear smile perhaps accompanied by a giggle or two. I hope you're feeling compelled to share your happy Converse stories with prospective students in your community so that they might come to be a member of our great Converse family. Let's all join together in this endeavor to ensure that deserving young women have every chance to experience our Converse community!

Warmly,

Nancy Bain Coté '79

## Granddaughter's Club

The Alumnae Office welcomes the newest members of the Granddaughter's Club  
The Granddaughter's Club celebrates those legacies of the College who have a direct ancestor  
(mother, grandmother, great-grandmother) who attended Converse.



Kristen Thomas, daughter of Karen Waters Thomas '84



Lindsey Miller, daughter of Wendy Miller '98



Hope Coleman, granddaughter of Lucy Davis Coleman '48



Chelsea Smith, daughter of Sharon Gray Smith '82



Kristen Thorpe, daughter of Cindy Graham Thorpe '83



Sierrah Gomez, daughter of Dena Gomez '08  
(along with her sister Desirree Gomez '08)

Not pictured:

Erica Erekosmia, daughter of Maria Lipscomb '06

Laura Haynie, great-granddaughter of the late Annie Pierce Blake Haynie '22

Eleanor Johnson, granddaughter of the late Eleanor Dardis Cottrell Culler '31

Daphne Mamoulides, granddaughter of Sandra Cross Mamoulides '58

Maurie Prince, daughter of Laurice McLeod Prince '80

Meagan Williams, step-daughter of Michelle Williams '84

Anna Margaret Taylor, daughter of Andrea Taylor '79 MEd

# Travel with Converse

Please contact the Alumnae Office for more information or to reserve your spot today!

Travel Contact: Jane Marion Wilson '04, Director of Alumnae  
E-mail: [jane.wilson@converse.edu](mailto:jane.wilson@converse.edu)  
Phone: (864) 596-9055

## Scotland

August 9–18, 2009

Approximately \$2,695 per person, plus airfare and V.A.T., based on double occupancy.

Walk in the footsteps of William Wallace and Prince Charles Edward Stuart on this adventure showcasing the stunning countryside and fascinating history of Scotland! From Oban, travel to the Isle of Mull and its 13th-century Duart Castle. Visit the Isle of Skye's Armadale Castle to learn about ancient Gaelic life, and enjoy a drive through the scenic Highlands. Admire the charm of the Slate Islands, and journey through The Trossachs to view the "bonnie banks of Loch Lomond." See the stately castle in Stirling and the monument to William Wallace, then venture into the surrounding area with excursions to St. Andrews, the Home of Golf, and the important port city Dundee. Conclude your discovery of Scottish history and culture with an excursion to Edinburgh.



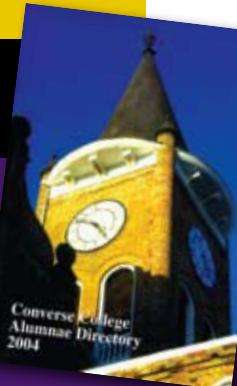
## SOUTH AFRICA ESCAPADE

October 20–October 29, 2009

Approximately \$2,895 per person, plus airfare and V.A.T., based on double occupancy.

From cosmopolitan cities to tide-swept beaches to bushveld savannahs, South Africa is a fascinating study in contrasts. This special travel program offers the perfect balance between planned excursions and independent exploration during visits to Cape Town and world-renowned Kruger National Park.

Discover Cape Town's bustling waterfront and ascend lofty Table Mountain for superb panoramic views. Admire distinctive flora and exotic wildlife during amazing game viewing drives. Optional excursions journey to the region's wine country, the famous prison on Robben Island and the beauty of Cape Peninsula National Park. You'll stay in First-Class accommodations at each destination and enjoy every modern comfort as you explore the intrigue of South Africa!



2004 Alumnae Directory

## Converse College Alumnae and Graduate Alumni Directory Project

The Alumnae Office is pleased to announce that an update of the Converse Alumnae Directory is underway! Our latest edition will include undergraduate alumnae and graduate alumni. Converse alumnae and graduate alumni will be contacted by PCI, a data processing and publishing company, to verify information and to reserve a copy of the new directory. Please respond as quickly as possible to the first request for updated information. When you provide your updated contact information to PCI, you will be given the opportunity to purchase the new directory, which will be available in fall 2009. PCI will only print the number requested, so we encourage you to reserve your copy at the time you update your information. Participating in this update helps Converse to produce an accurate and comprehensive directory of both our undergraduate alumnae and our graduate alumni. It also provides Converse valuable information about career paths and networking, geographic distribution and post-graduate educational achievement. The directory is the best way to locate friends and classmates and to locate local alumnae/i in your geographic area.



**Distinguished Alumna Award**  
**Eliza "Tink" Macaulay Carney '59**

The Distinguished Alumna Award is given each year to a Converse alumna in recognition of outstanding achievement in her field, service to her community or society and loyalty to Converse. Eliza "Tink" Macaulay Carney '59 of Fort Collins, CO is the recipient of the 2009 award.

Tink Carney has a passion for projects that she sees as beneficial to her community, state and nation: health-care reform, peace and justice issues, and community building. She has worked in a variety of arenas, including the campaign staff of an Arizona gubernatorial candidate, and volunteer staff for the McGovern and Carter presidential campaigns in Arizona. She has taught at the high school and college levels and was an academic adviser in the College of Nursing at Arizona State University. Tink served as director of WHEAT, an anti-hunger organization, for 14 years. She retired in 1995 and now works nonstop for the causes she supports.

Tink's interest in reforming the nation's health-care system has led to her involvement in Health Care for All Colorado, a statewide organization that advocates for a universal, single-payer system. She is on the state board of directors for HCAC and also serves as chair of the northern Colorado steering committee. Community development is another major interest for Tink. In 2004 she helped form the Community-Building Network of Larimer County. She is also a volunteer with the Asset-Based Community Development Institute, based at Northwestern University, and consults locally with Community Organizing to Reach Empowerment. The organization works with youth and families in four north Fort Collins neighborhoods to improve their lives.



**Mae Elizabeth Kilgo Spirit Award**  
**Melissa Daves Johnson '69**

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

Melissa Daves Johnson '69 has served Converse in various capacities. As Converse's Alumnae Director from 2000-2006, Melissa increased alumnae engagement in leadership, student recruitment and overall participation in College events and programs. She has an incredible eye for detail with special events and currently oversees the coordination of Converse's A Thousand Thanks Donor Gala. Melissa has also volunteered her time and talents to work with her classmates as a class representative and class fund chair. Most importantly, Melissa takes to heart the importance of strengthening alumnae ties to the College and is one of Converse's best cheerleaders!

Melissa's passion for supporting Converse is matched by her active community involvement. She is the chair of the "Hottest Ticket in Town" benefit for The Music Foundation of Spartanburg and serves on the Festival of Trees Committee benefiting Spartanburg Regional Hospice, and the Healing Arts Committee. She is also a member of the First Monday Book Club, Botanical Belles Garden Club, First Thursday Study Club, Sagent Society and a sustaining member and past president of the Junior League of Spartanburg. In addition to her community service, Melissa is retired from Spartanburg School District 7, where she touched many young lives as a junior high school math teacher.



**Community Service Award**  
**Allene Broyhill Stevens '44**

The Community Service Award is presented to a Converse alumna who displays the qualities of a vibrant citizen as evidenced in her active involvement in her community, church and state. Allene Broyhill Stevens '44 is this year's winner and has been awarded this accolade for her many years of continuous service to the community of her native Lenoir, NC.

Allene has a special interest in the cultural and educational affairs of her city and state. She has served on the board of trustees of the Western Piedmont Symphony, the North Carolina Symphony, the North Carolina Arts Society, Appalachian State University, the Caldwell Community College Foundation Board and the Wake Forest University Board of Visitors. She was instrumental in organizing the Caldwell Arts Council and in making the former Broyhill home available as an office and gallery for the Arts Council. Allene was also among the founders of An Appalachian Summer, the summer arts festival of Appalachian State University.

Allene has been a strong advocate in the field of healthcare. Her late husband, Bill Stevens, was chairman of the board of trustees of Caldwell Memorial Hospital, and the two cancer care units of the hospital are named for them. She has also been a longtime supporter of the Hospice movement in Lenoir and was co-chairman of the committee that planned and implemented the building of the first hospice in-patient care facility in North Carolina.



**Converse 100 Award**  
**Marianne Ellison Bartram '49**

First presented during the College's Centennial, the Converse 100 Award is given to alumnae who clearly represent the qualities of character and achievement that Converse alumnae hold as their ideal. Marianne Ellison Bartram '49 is this year's recipient.

Upon graduating from Converse in 1949 as the only senior with a math major, Marianne began her career teaching math at Hand Junior High School in Columbia, SC. After marrying, she continued teaching middle school in Pendleton, SC. She resumed teaching math in adult education and middle school in Lancaster, SC, after she took a family leave. Later she moved to Greenville, SC, and accepted a position at Greenville Technical College, which allowed her to continue teaching in their Developmental Studies Department. There, she worked with young people and adults to improve their basic skills. Marianne states, "It has always been a challenge to help students enjoy math and particularly convince girls 'they can do math'!!" Her teaching experience has carried over into teaching and leading church school classes, children's activities and various other organizations.

In retirement, Marianne is back in Spartanburg and is an avid participant and supporter of many Converse activities and enjoys the benefits of being close to the College. She has traveled extensively with her husband, but has found time to recently serve two terms on the Converse Alumnae Board as President of the Golden Club.



**Young Alumna Award**  
**Frances Cate '04**

The Young Alumna Award is given to an alumna who embodies the qualities of character and achievement that Converse alumnae hold as their ideal, and Converse salutes this year's recipient, Frances Cate '04.

Frances is currently a fourth year medical student at the Medical University of South Carolina. During her time at MUSC, Frances was selected out of 150 students to be a teaching assistant in the Gross Anatomy course. She also served for one year as a member of the board of the Cares Clinic, a free clinic run solely by medical students. The clinic was recognized as the outstanding student service project on campus in 2006. For the past year, Frances has served as president of the MUSC chapter of Medical Students for Choice, which was recently honored with the Elizabeth Karlin Award for the best MSFC chapter in the nation. The organization focuses on raising campus and community awareness of issues related to women's healthcare.

Frances recently published an article, "A Plague of Plagues: The Problem of Plague Diagnosis in Medieval England" in *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* with Converse History Professor, Dr. John Theilmann. She is a member of the American Medical Association, the American Medical Women's Association, Medical Students for Choice and the South Carolina Medical Association. Frances is currently applying to residency programs to pursue a career in surgical pathology.



**Career Achievement in Music Award**  
**Courtenay Collins Eckardt '84**

The Career Achievement in Music Award is presented to Courtenay Collins Eckardt '84 in recognition of her dedication to excellence in music and her distinction of notable achievement as a professional actress, singer and vocal coach over a continuous period of time. After graduating from Converse with a double major in vocal performance and theatre, Courtenay spent a year in the University of Georgia's MFA program. She then graduated from Juilliard's Drama Division and was awarded The Michel and Suria St. Denis Award. After Juilliard, she joined the National/International tour of *Phantom of the Opera* as Christine. Other notable New York shows: *Eating Raoul*, Walt Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Showboat* and *Brigadoon*.

Atlanta Theatre Performances include - Alliance Theatre: *Managing Maxine*, *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris* (Suzi Bass Nomination), *The Fourth Wall*... Atlantic Lyric Theatre: *Evita*, *Jerry's Girls*...Actor's Express: *Love, Jerry* (Suzi Nominee). Courtenay has produced numerous shows for cabaret venues in Atlanta (*Libby's Cabaret*) and performs these shows across the country for special events and functions. She has recorded 4 feature CDs... *Nightingale*, *One For My Baby*, *A Merry Little Christmas*, and *Live at the Club*. During the summer, she directs and runs a children's musical theatre camp — Showcamp USA. She is a private vocal coach to professionals and students and works with local high schools as a choreographer and musical director. Courtenay currently resides in Atlanta with her husband Michael Eckardt and her two boys, Collins and Spencer. She divides her time between performing, teaching and "mommying."



**Converse Star Award**  
**Liz Harkins Biosca '64**

Liz Harkins Biosca '64 is this year's recipient of the Converse Star Award, presented to an alumna who has actively and admirably served Converse in the area of recruitment.

An enthusiastic cheerleader for Converse, Liz has spread the word about Converse College and helped recruit over twenty students to Converse through her career in teaching. Since 1987, she has taught Latin at Science Hill High School in Johnson City, TN, and consistently encouraged her students to consider Converse. Over the past fifteen years, almost every applicant from Johnson City, TN, lists her as one of the main reasons for considering Converse. She consistently sends in student referrals and has hosted several alumnae events in her home where prospective students and their parents have the opportunity to see first hand the benefits of small classes, individualized attention, and leadership experiences that Converse offers. Liz has also served Converse in the past as Chair of the Nominating Committee of the Alumnae Board and as a Converse Class Fund Chair.

Liz has been recognized consistently for her outstanding teaching, receiving the Paul Harris Fellow Award from the Rotary Foundation, the Outstanding Teacher Achievement Award from the Governor's School for International Studies at the University of Memphis, and the Teacher of the Year Award from the Johnson City School System. She is also active in her community, serving as the commissioner of the Historic Zoning Commission of Johnson City and as a lifetime member of St. John's Episcopal Church.



**Career Achievement Award**  
**Sally Evans Lockwood '69**

Each year, Converse salutes an alumna who has dedicated herself to excellence in her profession and has distinguished herself by notable achievement over a continuous period of time. This year, we recognize Sally Evans Lockwood '69 with the Career Achievement Award.

Sally, director of the Office of Bar Admissions of the Supreme Court of Georgia, oversees the character and fitness investigations of 2000 applicants each year for admission to the practice of law, and the administration of the Bar Examination. She is the first woman to hold this position in Georgia. Earlier, she served as director of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism in Georgia and developed a number of programs to enhance professionalism among Georgia lawyers and judges, including the first statewide mandatory Mentoring Program for newly admitted lawyers in the US, and the Law School Orientation on Professionalism that now serves as a model for similar programs at 40 law schools around the country. Prior to her work with the Supreme Court and Commission, Sally was in private law practice in Atlanta and later served as an assistant attorney general and administrative law judge for the State of Georgia. Active in the alternative dispute resolution movement in Georgia since 1982, she has served as arbitrator and mediator in numerous cases in both court-annexed and private settings. A history major at Converse, Sally graduated with Distinction from Emory University School of Law and is former president of the Law School Alumni Association.

Sally is also a member of the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center, the Morgan County African-American Museum and the Morgan County Historical Society.

# 2009 Alumnae Board Slate

**Records and Recognition Committee Chair - Susan Byrnes Long '04**

Dallas, TX

- Client Account Analyst, PricewaterhouseCoopers
- United Way of Metropolitan Dallas Young Leaders Association
- Junior League of Dallas



**CARE (Converse Alumnae Recruitment Effort) Chair - Carrie Hill Coleman '96**

Spartanburg, SC

- Teacher, First Presbyterian Weekday School
- Chair, First Presbyterian Nursery Committee
- 2005 Graduate, Leadership Spartanburg



**Development Committee Chair - Paige Eubanks-Barrow '98**

Pittsburgh, PA

- Associate Director of Donor Relations, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
- Board of Directors, Association of Donor Relations Professionals
- Converse College Head Delegate, Model League of Arab States, 1997-98



**Music School Representative - Joy Nanney Finch '77**

Inman, SC

- Department Head - Environmental, Health and Safety; Greenville Technical College Division of Continuing Education
- Musical director with USC-Upstate Shoestring Players and Spartanburg Little Theatre



**Young Alumnae Representative - Wilesha Davis Wright '01**

Durham, NC

- Publisher, GlaxoSmithKline
- Events Coordinator, Greater Emmanuel Church



**40's Decade Representative - Mary Johnson Nanney Brady '49**

Spartanburg, SC

- Retired Social Studies Teacher, Greer High School
- Co-founder, Line Dance program, Shepherd Center
- Elder, Nazareth Presbyterian Church



**40's Decade Representative - Lib Harper Hopkins '49**

Tampa, FL

- Development Committee, Friends of the Library
- Antique Collectors Study Club
- Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary



**50's Decade Representative - Margaret Jackson Bundy '54**

Lancaster, SC

- Former Chairman, Lancaster County Library Board and State Library Board
- 2004 Recipient, Converse Alumnae Community Service Award
- Former President, Lancaster Garden Club and Lancaster Council of Garden Clubs



**50's Decade Representative - Barbara Bedenbaugh Jeffords '50**

Spartanburg, SC

- Retired Anatomy and Physiology Teacher, MUSC School for Nursing and Spartanburg General Hospital of Nursing
- International medical mission volunteer
- ESOL (English Speaking Other Languages) Teacher and Director



**60's Decade Representative - Ginger McKinney Jernigan '65**

Raleigh, NC

- Homemaker, wife, mother, "doting" grandmother
- Volunteer and leader, Christ Episcopal Church and 2009 President, Raleigh Fine Arts Society
- Hobbies: photography, gardening, reading, walking with husband



**60's Decade Representative - Nilla T. "Dicke" Sloop '67**

Sanford, NC

- Retired director, Wake County Environmental Health and Safety Division
- Vice President, NC Public Health Association
- Member, Lee County Arts and Community Center Board



**60's Decade Representative -**

**Lucia Cleveland****Johnson '67**

Cedartown, GA

- Retired after 30 years in Cytology field
- Teacher of etiquette and manners to children and adults, The Life Lessons Academy
- Husband, Rick, is founding Director of WinShape Camps, foundation of Chick-fil-A

**70's Decade Representative -****Paula Wagner****Gay '77**

Houston, TX

- Docent, St. Martin's Episcopal Church
- Board Member, Houston Junior League Sustainer Transfer Club
- Proud Mother of three daughters

**80's Decade Representative -****Rebecca****"Becky" DuBard****Grantland '88**

Columbia, SC

- Member, Shandon United Methodist Church
- Parents' Association Board, Hammond School
- Irene D. Elliot Award for Excellence in Teaching, USC, and Teacher of the Year, Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College

**90's Decade Representative -****Christy****Christian '98**

Birmingham, AL

- Reading Specialist, Mountain Brook Schools
- Member, Junior League of Birmingham Leadership Team & Volunteer Council, Alabama Leadership Institute, National Staff Development Council
- Has a passion for learning and motivating others. Lives by Philippians 4:13.

**90's Decade Representative -****Tracy Williamson****Dart '91**

Princeton, NJ

- Mother of 3
- Interior Designer
- Active with school and community

**00's Decade Representative -****Joy D. Stoney '00**

Charleston, SC

- Attorney/ Owner, Stoney Law Firm, LLC
- Board Member, Trident Area Agency on Aging, Rural Missions, Inc., and Coalition of African-American Churches
- Active Member, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

**00's Decade Representative -****Gabrielle Chapman****Leopard '03**

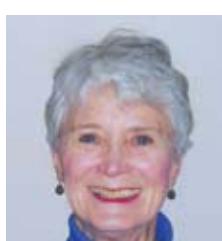
Spartanburg, SC

- Clinical Counselor, Orin Community Health Center
- Member, American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
- Wife to Ken and Mother of 3 dogs, Mabel, Lola and Otis

**At-Large Member -****Polly Hill Woodham '51**

Asheville, NC

- Step Study leader, Celebrate Recovery
- Member, Prayer 1300
- Hospice volunteer

**At-Large Member -****Susanna Knight****Roberts '00**

Atlanta, GA

- Volunteer, Crossroads Community Ministries
- Member, St. Luke's Episcopal Church
- Mom to 1 1/2 year old little girl

**At-Large Member -****Joy Adams****Bethea '93**

Columbia, SC

- Master Gardener, Clemson Extension
- Volunteer and Educator, Hammond School
- Member, Junior League of Columbia and Sunday School Teacher, Eastminster Presbyterian Church

**At-Large Member -****Doris Marley****Laird '51**

Tallahassee, FL

- Appeared in 2007-2008 editions of Who's Who In America, Who's Who In American Women, Who's Who In American Education, and Who's Who In The World
- Retired professor of Humanities at FSU



# LIFE EVENTS and CLASS NOTES

## How to get your news in Life Events and Class Notes:

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

Class Representatives may submit notes for every issue of the magazine. Class Notes includes information submitted to the Alumnae Office by November 1, 2008.

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

**Make sure we have your correct E-mail address! Please send E-mail addresses to:** nancy.gage@converse.edu.

### In Memoriam

Margaret HUMBERT Sexton '29, February 19, 2008  
Elizabeth "Libber" JENNINGS Caughman '30, July 29, 2008  
May "Maysie" HOWARD Wall '31, September 10, 2008  
Lida MERIWETHER Hall '32, March 8, 2008  
Daphne SMITH Adams '32, June 28, 2008  
Dorothy TUTT Sinclair '35, July 9, 2008  
Florence "Flossie" WADE Anderson '36, December 17, 1999  
Edith ALLEN Norman, '37, March 30, 2008  
Zula Lee BRADFORD Wood '37, July 3, 2008  
Geraldine McClure FOSTER Taylor '39, July 26, 2008  
Sarah Margaret JONES Loftis '39, June 15, 2008  
Elizabeth "Betty" HALL Donant '40, July 3, 2008  
Virginia YOUNG Richardson '41, August 27, 2008  
William C. EZELL, Jr., '42, July 5, 2008  
Betty GENTRY Bissell '43, October 11, 2008  
Irene May McDOWELL Parker '44, July 23, 2008  
Mary BOWEN Sweat '46, January 7, 2008  
Carolyn HARWELL Dreyer '46, June 29, 2007  
Jeanne ARMSTRONG Houpt '47, June 23, 2008  
Eulalie ROTHE Bull '47, June 14, 2008  
Betty BLACKMON Wannamaker '49, October 18, 2008  
Gilbert Myer CARP '49 MM, October 23, 2008  
Christine JOLLY Anderson '49, August 2, 2008  
Mary Katherine PENNEBAKER '49, August 1, 2008  
Margaret Lillian POOLE Cuttino '49, May 24, 2008  
Glenn BOLT Riddle '50, August 16, 2008  
Pauline BOWLES Shumate '50, June 19, 2007  
Berhnhardt "Berny" WITHERSPOON Berry '50, August 17, 2008  
Betsey MALLARD Mewborn '51, August 11, 2008  
Anna Grace OGDEN '51, August 14, 2008  
Mary Jane HUTCHENS Souwein '53, June 9, 2008  
Bernice "Bun" WYATT Wyatt '53, October 1, 2008  
Mary Moore WANNAMAKER '54, September 15, 2008  
Shiela SHORE Lester '58, July 21, 2008  
Martha CURTIS Hudgins '62, May 27, 2007  
Margaret "Maggie" CLEMENTS Strang '63, June 14, 2008  
Sandra VanLandingham BINDER '64, June 8, 2008  
Caroline BUCHAN Robson '64, September 16, 2008  
Jane DULANEY Ohly '64, July 31, 2006  
Harriette NASH Drawdy '64, September 24, 2008

Rebecca PEELER Parsons '64, October 16, 2008  
Carolyn HOLLIDAY Henry '66, August 20, 2008  
Nancy MARSH Wright '66 MMus, August 14, 2008  
Helen Oates DICKSON '67 MAT, August 12, 2008  
Maxine Henderson MOORE '67 MEd, August 21, 2008  
Sarah Elizabeth "Libby" BIGGS Johnson '68, October 30, 2008  
William Vance FRYE '71 MEd, September 3, 2008  
Nancy HARDEE Griggs '74, May 22, 2008  
Phoebe "Kay" McQuage DILLARD '76 MAT, July 11, 2008  
Sarah MAYO Smith '83, September 13, 2008  
Josie Pressly Dunbar '87 MEd, August 29, 2008  
Connie Jean CULBRETH '92 MEd, June 30, 2008  
Belinda RAMSEY Brewer, September 1, 2008  
Nicole Michelle Heath MCGILL, June 16, 2008

**Sympathy**

Aleine RUDISILL Martin '36 on the death of her husband, John Wesley Martin, September 26, 2008  
Caroline BLACKMON Cottingham '41 on the death of her sister, Betty BLACKMON Wannamaker '49, October 18, 2008  
Christie ZIMMERMAN Fant '41 on the death of her husband, James Wilks Fant, June 6, 2008  
Clementina SHANKS Dowling '42 on the death of her husband, Marion Miller Dowling, June 28, 2008  
Betty OATES Gage '43 on the death of her husband, Theodore Wannamaker Gage, July 10, 2008  
Olive CAMP Johnson '48 on the death of her daughter, Robin Camp Johnson Monroe, September 2, 2008  
Jane TAYLOR Patterson '48 on the death of her sister, Joyce Taylor Rubier, September 25, 2008  
Marian MCMASTER Weigle '50 on the death of her sister, Norvelle Atkinson McMaster Cox, June 17, 2008  
Nancy CHEATHAM Riggsbee '51 on the death of her husband, Victor Lee Riggsbee, September 19, 2008  
Georgia FREE Laney '51 on the death of her brother Horace "Bubba" Free, August 11, 2008  
Dorothy WYATT Adams '51 on the death of her sister, Bernice "Bun" WYATT Wyatt '53, October 1, 2008  
Jane DAVIS Griffin '55 on the death of her husband, George Ralph Griffin, September 24, 2008

Elizabeth "Libby" EVANS Green '56 on the death of her husband, Samuel Charles "Charlie" Green, Jr., May 8, 2008  
Mary Elizabeth OELAND Alexander '56 on the death of her son, Thomas Herbert "Bert" Alexander, Jr., July 9, 2008  
Madeleine CAUGHMAN Ritchie '58 on the death of her mother, Elizabeth "Libber" Jennings Caughman '30, July 29, 2008  
Ellen CARR Beard '59 on the death of her mother, Josephine Montgomery Carr, October 9, 2008  
Sister WANNAMAKER Still '59 on the death of her sister, Mary Moore WANNAMAKER '54, September 15, 2008  
Elizabeth DIAL Boone '60 on the death of her husband, Lee James Boone, March 3, 2008  
Mary Louise RUTLEDGE '60 on the death of her brother, James Rose Rutledge IV, July 16, 2008  
Josephine CARR Ussery '61 on the death of her mother, Josephine Montgomery Carr, October 9, 2008  
Frances TAYLOR Meissner '61 on the death of her mother, Frances Mayrant Wallace Taylor, October 22, 2007  
Carlisle CAUGHMAN Harvard '63 on the death of her mother, Elizabeth "Libber" Jennings Caughman '30, July 29, 2008  
Elizabeth "Liz" HARKINS Biosca '64 on the death of her father, Robert Forbes Harkins, September 14, 2008  
Virginia JOHNSTONE Smith '65 on the death of her husband, Frederic L. Smith, May 9, 2008  
Margaret GOETTE Brooks '66 on the death of her mother, Margaret Solomons Goettee, August 27, 2008  
Kathryn BEATTY-Todd '67 on the death of her mother, Sarah Fisher Beatty, November 22, 2007  
Robbie KING Staubes '67 on the death of her husband, Chris B. Staubes, Jr., October 22, 2008  
Carol MCGINTY Rawlinson '68 on the death of her father, William Milner McGinty, October 31, 2008  
Marianne STRIBLING '68 on the death of her brother, James Wendell Stribling, November 24, 2007  
Marianne STRIBLING '68 on the death of her mother, Mary Martin Stribling, July 12, 2008  
Robbie Louise TAYLOR '68 on the death of her brother, William David "Dave" Taylor, May 24, 2008

- Janet KIMBALL Camlin '69 on the death of her daughter, Heather Elizabeth Barrineau Reid, June 1, 2008
- Sarah Malloy Lesesne '69 on the death of her father, Edward Huguenin Lesesne, October 20, 2007
- Julia SEABROOK Moore '69 on the death of her mother, Emily Wolfe Seabrook, June 20, 2008
- Ann JOYNER Cross '70 on the death of her mother, Eleanor Matheson Joyner, August 25, 2008
- Frances REAVES Ross '70 on the death of her husband, Raymond E. Ross, September 30, 2008
- Lynda SMITH Swann '70 on the death of her father, Eddie Smith, Sr., July 17, 2007
- Patricia ARMSTRONG Dressler '71 on the death of her husband, Fred M. Dressler, December 24, 2007
- Linda BRAWLEY Simpson '71 on the death of her father, John Roderick Brawley, October 31, 2008
- Laura GOETTEE Livingston '71 on the death of her mother, Margaret Solomons Goettee, August 27, 2008
- Susan KITTRELL Higgins '71 on the death of her mother, Betty Gaines Kittrell, December 24, 2007
- Elizabeth Hampton Lesesne '71 on the death of her father, Edward Huguenin Lesesne, October 20, 2007
- Leize Rollins Smith '71 on the death of her mother, Evelyn Preacher Rollins, November 1, 2008
- Toby SEABROOK Meetze '71 on the death of her mother, Emily Wolfe Seabrook, June 20, 2008
- Sallie ROBINS Johnson '72 on the death of her mother, Dorothy Sumner Martin Robins, February 14, 2008
- Sue WYATT Holmes '72 on the death of her father, Garland Murray "Jut" Wyatt, October 2, 2008
- Harriet MCGINTY Mitchell '73 on the death of her father, William Milner McGinty, October 31, 2008
- Diane MOFFETT Kellum '73 on the death of her husband, Henry M. Kellum, August 16, 2008
- Nell WALL Otto '73 on the death of her mother, May "Maysie" Howard Wall '31, September 10, 2008
- Marian MCGINTY Carpenter '75 on the death of her father, William Milner McGinty, October 31, 2008
- Anne ROBERTS '75 on the death of her mother, Aubrey Jean Rankin Roberts, July 30, 2008
- Nancy SEABROOK Hoefer '75 on the death of her mother, Emily Wolfe Seabrook, June 20, 2008
- Janis BEARD Cunningham '76 on the death of her father, Frank Powell Beard, Jr., October 8, 2008
- Gail RAWLS Jeter '77 on the death of her father, Dr. George B. Rawls, July 4, 2008
- Marian POTTS Foster '78 on the death of her brother, William Mitchell "Bill" Potts, July 27, 2008
- Dawn WILLIAMSON Wilbanks '78 on the death of her mother, Annie Jeanne Smith Williamson, July 16, 2008
- Constance L. DEAL '81 on the death of her mother, Philomena Deal, June 23, 2008
- Debra BALDI Matz '82 on the death of her mother, Mary Lou Baldi, July 25, 2008
- Pamela CUTTINO Parker '83 on the death of her mother, Margaret Lillian POOLE Cuttino '49, May 24, 2008
- Kenda MCCLELLAN Painter '83 on the death of her mother, Barbara Wright McClellan, May 23, 2008
- Lynn RUBIER-Capron '84 on the death of her mother, Joyce Taylor Rubier, September 25, 2008
- Judy KESIG Sieg '85 on the death of her mother, Betty Kesig, August 29, 2008
- Kathryn SCHILLING-Oakes '87 on the death of her grandmother, Clara Rudd Huey, June 1, 2007
- Kathryn SCHILLING-Oakes '87 on the death of her mother, Barbara Huey Schilling, December 8, 2007
- Elizabeth SHELTON Roddy '87 on the death of her father, Dr. Leslie W. Shelton, Jr., June 20, 2008
- Ainsley HOWARD Rhame '89 on the death of her father, Carl F. "Doc" Howard, June 9, 2008
- Wanda MOORE McDowell '91 on the death of her grandfather, Roy Beason, October 21, 2008
- Ashley QUINN Drake '93 on the death of her mother, Joan McDonald Slaughter Quinn, June 19, 2008
- Sarah JOHNSON Hartung '95 on the death of her mother, Sarah Elizabeth BIGGS Johnson '68, October 30, 2008
- Carol CANCIENNE '99 on the death of her grandmother, Estelle Amedee Cancienne, August 15, 2008
- Amanda Susan LENTZ '02 on the death of her grandfather, Garland Murray "Jut" Wyatt, October 2, 2008
- Kerri Lynn OLSON '02 on the death of her grandmother, Cheryl V. Olson, August 10, 2008
- Elizabeth Anne OSWALT '02 on the death of her grandmother, June L. Oswalt, July 26, 2008
- Amber ABBOTT Spencer '04 on the death of her mother, Keilah Wiggins Abbott, November 27, 2006
- Margaret Demaris BROOKS '06 on the death of her grandmother, Margaret Solomons Goettee, August 27, 2008
- Claiborne Macdonald FANT '08 on the death of her grandfather, James Wilks Fant, June 6, 2008
- ### Marriages
- Nancy "Nan" BROWN Foster '55 to Robert W. Duke, July 19, 2008
- Louise FINDLEY Labosier '76 to Donald Eugene Bailey, June 2008
- Sarah MERCER Tinson '79 to Peter Chatel, August 8, 2008
- Donna MCKINNEY Southgate '85 to Michael Keith Woods, May 10, 2008
- Angela Mary DIGIULIO '86 to Mark Wayne Davis, August 8, 2008
- Claudia Ainsley HOWARD '89 to Gregory Scott Rhame, May 10, 2008
- Julie Claire BRAMLETT '90 to Chris Dehmer, April 19, 2008
- Stacy REESE Joyce '91 to Nat Milbourn, October 25, 2008
- Amanda Kay MCCOY '92 to Jefferson Kendrick Phillips, April 27, 2008
- Angela Suzanne MCCORKLE '95 to Scott Roberts, July 17, 2007
- Kimberly Lee HOBDY '97 to Eric Kuziak, May 10, 2008
- Nina Caroline TAYLOR '97 to Thomas Brett Player, September 13, 2008
- Kimberly Catherine VARNADOE '97 to Mark B. Kent, June 24, 2007
- Emily Alexander SMITH '98 to Reed Wilson, January 26, 2008
- Helen Katherine WALKER '98 to John McIntyre "Mac" Tolar, June 28, 2008
- Jenny Elizabeth ABBOTT '99 to Craig Kitchings, June 28, 2008
- Nelwyn Alanna LANDRETH '99, '02 MM to Christopher J. Waldrop, March 2008
- Katherine Michelle FULMER '00 to Justin Schaeffer, May 17, 2008
- Kerri Elizabeth TUCKER '00 to Jack Denver Powell, Jr., June 28, 2008
- Claire Stricklin COUNTS '01 to Benjamin David Wiese, September 27, 2008
- Michelle Louise OVERSTREET '01 MED to Patrick Luke Wampler, June 21, 2008
- Elizabeth Clay CURREY '02 to Jonathan Albert Hand, May 24, 2008
- Tiffany Lynne THORNTON '02 to Bret Batterman, May 18, 2008
- Lauren Chance ARMSTRONG '03 MAT to Charles Thomas Rollins, June 22, 2008
- Heather Elizabeth Barclay '03 to Jeffrey David Findlay, August 2, 2008
- Valerie Allison BROCK '03 to William Jackson Naglich, June 14, 2008
- Kathryn Kristine "Kristi" FARIS '03 to Ryan James Butler, April 26, 2008
- Jessica Colleen LITTLE '03 to Norris Mason Conklin, June 30, 2007
- Amber Blythe ABBOTT '04 to Jarred Stephen Spencer, October 21, 2006
- Laura Wells BANNISTER '04 to John Paul Simmons King, August 2, 2008
- Kim Bernadette BRADY '04 to James Wolfe, March 29, 2008
- Anne Grace GADDY '04 to Gerald Allen Brasington, June 13, 2008
- Rebecca Beverley HART '04 to William Addison Warren, Jr., September 20, 2008
- Christina Grace NEIGHBORS '04 MED to Brandon Correll "Cory" Graves, August 2, 2008
- Adrian Rebecca SIMS '04 to Stephen Woody Truluck, May 31, 2008
- Mary Stewart TREVILLION '04 to Douglas Kendrick Habig, November 24, 2007
- Kelly Taylor WILSON '04 to Michael William Hall, May 31, 2008
- Virginia Garland COLLINS '05 to Glenn Ryder Holly Coleman EARNHARDT '05 to Murray Lamar Davis III, July 26, 2008
- Paula Jean HUCKABY '05 to Allen Wayne Richards, June 14, 2008
- Jennifer Leigh MILLS '05 to Michael Trevor Whitt, June 14, 2008
- Danielle Simone MOSS '05 to Hansel A. Beckford, August 30, 2008
- Nicole Elizabeth SOUTHGATE '05 to Tyler Nunn Lowe, September 6, 2008
- Carolina Elisa ANGUIZOLA '06 to Christian Rotter, March 2, 2007
- Ralph Fowler, Jr. '06 MLA to Dr. Princess Porter, March 8, 2008
- Tracy Elizabeth HUSKEY '06 to Donald Eggleton, June 21, 2008
- Abby McLaurin AMICK '07 to Aaron James Pretulak, July 19, 2008
- Kathryn Jean BRADLEY '07 MAT to Trevor Sherman Allen, June 14, 2008

Rebecca English BRUST '07 to Porter Case Taylor, June 7, 2008  
 Mary Elizabeth BURNS '07 to Jonathan Stuart Bobo, June 21, 2008  
 Gina Leanne CASH '07 MEd to Bogdan Moniuk, August 30, 2008  
 Brandy Lee EMORY '07 MEd to William Matthew Parker, August 2, 2008  
 Megan Elizabeth BROWN '08 to Brandon Wilson Grigg, June 14, 2008  
 Kristin Marie BUFFKIN '08 MM to Matthew Durant Brady, May 31, 2008  
 Brianne CROSS '08 to Justin Leftwich, June 7, 2008  
 Andrea Elizabeth JETT '08 to Tristan Bocucci  
 Elizabeth Carolina KING '08 to Chad Everett Cooksey '08 MAT, May 31, 2008  
 Melissa Danielle MEDFORD '08 to Christopher Michael Bennett, April 12, 2008  
 Shannon Brooke PETROSKI '08 to William Murdock McKenzie II, May 31, 2008  
 Margaret Austin SHIRK '08 to Charles Warren Felkel, August 16, 2008  
 Sarah Frances TIGNOR '08 to Kevin M. DeLapp, June 14, 2008  
 Shannon Renee WAGONER '08 MEd to William Mark Beheler, October 11, 2008  
 Lindsay Layne WALLER '08 to John Avery McKenzie, May 31, 2008

### **Births/Adoptions**

Anna Elizabeth Maino, October 12, 2008, daughter of Robert and Teresa GAGNON Maino '87  
 Sarah Marie Halstead, April 10, 2008, daughter of Clifford and Angela WEATHERRED Halstead '89  
 Thomas Banks Jones, September 29, 2008, son of Brooks and Mary Kenyon ROBARDS Jones '90  
 Olivia Sutton Barry, June 2008, daughter of Arthur of Kate BRANTLEY Barry '91  
 Margaret "Madge" Donnell Miller, July 30, 2008, daughter of James and Daisy BOUKNIGHT Miller '92  
 Emma Holbrook Wells, February 12, 2008, daughter of Robert and Wendy DRAY Wells '92  
 Addison Ivey Stone, July 24, 2008, daughter of Chris and Heather NEAL Stone '92  
 William Cherrington "Chet" White, August 11, 2008, son of Billy and Danielle OSBORNE White '92  
 William "Will" Langdon Blakely, September 15, 2008, son of Terry and Cynthia JOYNER Blakely '93  
 Anna Ward White, March 19, 2007 (adopted September 10, 2008 from Gansu, China), daughter of Jonathan and Lovell MCCLUNG White '93  
 David Metcalfe Millinor, June 9, 2008, son of Ashley and Ashley GROSS Millinor '94  
 Savannah Alexandria Campbell, April 27, 2008, daughter of Philip and Melissa HORNE Campbell '94  
 Russell Aaron Fowler, January 21, 2008, son of Jason and Michele BURNS Fowler '95  
 Amir Hasan, June 2008, son of Ansuddin and Shazia CHOUDRY Hasan '95  
 George William Becker and Elizabeth Faye Becker, June 2008, twins of George and Becka HOEHN Becker '95

James Stannard Hurteau III, June 12, 2008, son of Jamie and Jamye HORRES Hurteau '95  
 William Wallace Lancaster, August 13, 2008, son of Andy and Elizabeth "Beth" FARMER Lancaster '96  
 Anne Craig Thomas, April 16, 2008, daughter of Frank and Bronwyn KEMPER Thomas '96  
 Evan Kinsman Cooper, May 15, 2008, son of Billy and Windi MASON Cooper '96  
 Brynn Alexis Bendig, January 27, 2008, daughter of Dave and Dawne COPELAND Bendig '97  
 Louise Childs Moore and Margaret Foster Moore, September 20, 2008, twin daughters of Henry and Amy EBERHARDT Moore '97  
 William Rogers Smith, March 14, 2008, son of Roger and Katie FORT Smith '97  
 Colin Jesse Woods, September 3, 2008, son of Solomon and LaVonda FRIERSON Woods '97  
 Oliver Paul Canady, October 16, 2008, son of Paul and Emily GOWDY Canady '97  
 Laurel Grace Tolar, June 3, 2008, daughter of Jeffrey and Merri Christy HARMON Tolar '97  
 Bluford "Blu" Griffin Beckham, October 23, 2008, son of Griffin and Allison PARTRIDGE Beckham '97  
 Kensley Savannah Lake, May 23, 2008, daughter of Bryan and Stephanie SHELLEY Lake '97  
 Elizabeth Lane Trask, April 29, 2008, daughter of Dale and Amanda THOMAS Trask '97  
 Henry Varnadoc Kent and Amelia Catherine Kent, May 17, 2008, twins of Mark and Kimberly VARNADOC Kent '97  
 Anna Kathryn BoDi Kovach, November 3, 2007 (adopted September 16, 2008), daughter of Mark Alan and Kimberly WANNALL Kovach '97  
 Isabel Frances Helms, May 7, 2008, daughter of Noel and Dori DAVIS Helms '98  
 Marcella "Ella" Olga Betros, August 26, 2008, daughter of Christopher and Alex GAVALAS Betros '98  
 Audrey Mackenzie Waldrop, January 31, 2008, daughter of Mark and Lynn HUDSON Waldrop '98  
 Salem McIsaac Hann, September 27, 2008, daughter of Gordon and Olivia MCISAAC Hann '98  
 Ann Louise McConnell, April 2008, daughter of Beechard and Natalie SPIGNER McConnell '98  
 Elizabeth Emerson Reynolds, September 25, 2008, daughter of Ryan and Ashley GRIMSLEY Reynolds '99  
 Amy Alexandra Crawley, September 6, 2008, daughter of Frank and KC HAMMOND Crawley '99  
 Sarah Cobb Johnson, September 30, 2008, daughter of Stewart and Ann MULLINS Johnson '99  
 Charlee Ann Jones, April 22, 2008, daughter of Charles and Julie PADGETT Jones '99  
 Greta Louise Grace, April 21, 2008, daughter of John and Stephanie BORICK Grace '00  
 Jason Luke Sox, March 3, 2008, son of Jason and Angela LEE Sox '00  
 Wallace Austin Wyatt, April 18, 2008 son of Brian and Sarah LUMPKIN Wyatt '00  
 Brennan Patrick Burke, June 6, 2008, son of Jason and Nicole JOHNSEY Burke '01  
 Hagan Kirkland Gibson, August 7, 2008, son of Derrick and Stephanie KIRKLAND Gibson '01  
 Sarah Eden Dittman, March 13, 2008, daughter of Jason and Kristen CHEESEMAN Dittman '02  
 William McKain Rapp, April 10, 2008, son of Alex and Davis Ellie COOK Rapp '02

Evan Edward McCollum, October 12, 2008, son of Matt and Dorothea GARNER McCollum '02  
 Madison Lee Cody, July 31, 2008, Chris and Melinda REDMAN Cody '02  
 Oliver Marley Seeger Tempest, March 5, 2008, son of Jeff and Elizabeth SCOTT Tempest '02  
 Rayburn Randall Johnson, April 30, 2008, son of Shawn and Rachel DUBY Johnson '04  
 Ava Gensemer, October 18, 2008, daughter of Jonathan and Meredith MIKA Gensemer '04  
 Hannah Karlyle White, August 18, 2008, daughter of Travis and Ashley PARRIS White '04  
 Marilicia "Aria" Ellen Smith, September 18, 2008, daughter of Matt and Nicole RIGGS Smith '04  
 Samuel Charles Carver, October 6, 2008, son of Keith and Leslie SMITH Carver '04  
 William Dorsey Habig, May 27, 2008, son of Ken and Mary Stewart TREVILLION Habig '04  
 David Thomas Cline, March 28, 2008, son of Thomas and Donna Fuller CLINE '05  
 Jackson Benjamin Earp, October 4, 2008, son of Joseph and Mary Beth BROWN Earp '06  
 Alexander Javier Beaty, August 8, 2008, son of Alice Marie BEATY '08

### **Career Changes**

Molly FIELDS Walling '71, Adjunct Professor, UNC Asheville, Asheville, NC  
 Susan SAYE Gordon '77, Development Director in Training, American Heart Association, Greensburg, PA  
 Linda G. HAWKINS '82 MEd, '86 EdS, Superintendent, Lexington School District 4, Lexington, SC  
 Susan KAPILOFF Hammond '83, Estimator, Curry's Collision, Jackson, GA  
 Mary Ruth SENN '84, Environmental Engineer, US Navy, Norfolk, VA  
 Libby Anne KEPLEY Inabinet '86, Chief Development Officer, American Red Cross of Central South Carolina, Columbia, SC  
 Allyn TALBOT Johnson '87, Executive Director, Boykin Spaniel Rescue, Inc.  
 Stephanie Maxwell TRAIN '90, Purchasing Associate, Crespac, Tucker, GA  
 Monica HARMAN Pierce '91, Choral/Piano Teacher, Chester High School, Chester, SC  
 Jane Manning HYATT '93, Director of Sales and Client Relations, Mat Solutions, Sausalito, CA  
 Shannon PERDUE-Atwell '93, ChildLaw Services Inc., Princeton, WV  
 Lori MILLS Merck '97, Professor of Spanish, Spartanburg Methodist College, Spartanburg, SC  
 Rebecca Lynn BURCK '99 MEd, Teacher, Department of Defense Schools  
 Mirinda Hancock CULLER '99, Quality Analyst, AmeriSource Bergen Specialty Group, Charlotte, NC  
 Felica BAKER Torres '01, Management & Program Analyst, Defense Threat Recognition Agency, US Embassy, Moscow, Russia  
 Rebecca Elizabeth CRANDALL '01, Attorney, Williams Mullen, Research Triangle Park, NC  
 Anna Elizabeth DAVIS '01, Clinical Counselor, Greenville Metro Treatment Center, Greenville, SC  
 Valerie BROCK Naglich '03, International Grants Management Specialist, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Pretoria, South Africa  
 Donna Kay COLEMAN '03, Accounting/Office Manager, Triangle Construction Co., Inc.,

Greenville, SC  
Holly GILMORE Hayes '03, Associate Director of Practice-Based Research Networks, University of Texas Health Science Center's Department of Family Medicine, San Antonio, TX  
Chelsea Marie JACCARD '03, Advisor to the Kurdistan Regional Government, Iraqi Kurdistan  
Avery Anne TOMLINSON '03, Veterinarian, Appalachian Animal Hospital, East Ellijay, GA  
Laura BANNISTER King '04, Assistant Manager, Montmartre Boutique, New York City, NY  
Genevieve LEAMAN Strickland '04, Clinical Counselor, Orin Community Health Care, Spartanburg, SC  
Lori Danielle MCEACHERN '04, Psychotherapist, Center for Psychological and Family Services, Springfield, MA  
Marian DeWitt CARROLL '05, Director of Member Services, The Piedmont Club, Spartanburg, SC  
Clare Thompson HUEMMER '05 MAT, Account Manager, Sullivan Company LLC, Greenville, SC  
Alysandra LIPPOLD Smith '05, Operations Engineer, BenefitFocus.com Inc., Greenville, SC  
Melody L. MARTIN '05, Cataloguer, Heritage Auction Galleries, Dallas, TX  
Courtney Lee CLARK '06, Biology Teacher, Spartanburg School District Six, Spartanburg, SC  
Jessica Lynn ATHERTON '07, Assistant Director of the Converse Annual Fund, Converse College, Spartanburg, SC  
Jennifer KAESER '08, Graduate Teaching Assistant, Wichita State University, Wichita, KS

#### Advanced Degrees

Molly FIELDS Walling '71, MFA, Goucher College, 2007  
Karen Dempsey MCMAKIN '89 MEd, MEd, Converse College, 2008  
Angie WALKER Sullivan '90, MEd, Converse College, 2008  
Landa Michelle BASHAM '91, EdS, Converse College, 2008  
Holly Susanne HALL '92, EdS, Converse College, 2008  
Katherine Anne HEMBY '93, MD, SABA University School of Medicine, 2008  
Laura Dee MEYER '93 MEd, MEd, Converse College, 2008  
Jill CARTER Bouchillon '95, MLA, Converse College, 2008  
Mary Katherine DIAL '95, MEd, Converse College, 2008  
Christi L. LEWIS '95, MEd, Claflin University, 2008  
Angie MCCORKLE Roberts '95, MS, Education Leadership from Walden University, April 2008  
Jeffrey Lee SARTAIN '96 MEd, EdS, Converse College, 2008  
Holly EASLER Jones '97, MEd, Converse College, 2008  
Beth Cobb MARTIN '97 MEd, EdS, Converse College, 2008  
Sarah Elizabeth Corley ASHLEY Richardson '98, MEd, Converse College, 2008  
Elizabeth W. BOGGS '98, MD, University of SC School of Medicine, 2008  
Stephanie E. FOWLER '98 MEd, PhD, Vanderbilt University, 2001  
Gina Annette SKINNER '98, MEd, Converse College, 2008

Mary Ladd WATTS '98, MAT, Converse College, 2008  
Kristen Lee BRUCH '99, MAT, Queens University of Charlotte, 2006  
Laura Stacey BULLOCK '99 MEd, EdS, Converse College, 2008  
Kimberly RING Helle '00 MEd, EdS, Converse College, 2008  
Kelly Layne MOORE '00, MM, Boston University, 2008  
Canzater MaChera RICE '00 MEd, MEd, Converse College, 2008  
Phillip Robert ROGERS '00 MEd, EdS, Converse College, 2008  
Johnnette Davenport NESBITT '01 MEd, EdS, Converse College, 2008  
Leigh Anne MITCHELL Terry '02, MA, Furman University, May 2008  
Brandi SARRATT Cobb '02, MEd, Converse College, 2008  
Elisa Guillermina BALDERRAMA '03, MEd, Converse College, 2008  
Donna Kay COLEMAN '03, MAcc, Gardner Webb University, 2008  
Christian Danielle DAVIS Burnett '03, MFT, Converse College, 2008  
Tiffany GARRETT Lanier '03, MAT, Converse College, 2008  
Jessica LITTLE Conklin '03, MM, University of Oklahoma, 2006  
Cheryl MOORE Cruickshank '03, MM, Boston University  
Amanda McKinley SANDERS '03, MEd, Converse College, 2008  
Avery Anne TOMLINSON '03, DVM, University of Georgia, 2008  
April WILLARD Purser '03, MEd, Converse College, 2008  
Juliet AUTENZIO Wright '04, MAT, Converse College, 2008  
Laura BANNISTER King '04, AAS, Fashion Institute of Technology, 2008  
Katherine BOYD Bridges '04, MEd, Converse College, 2008  
Anne Grace GADDY '04, MEd, University of South Carolina, 2006  
Lori Danielle MCEACHERN '04, MA, Lesley University, 2006  
Susan Swofford SAPIER '04 MEd, MEd, Converse College, 2008  
Mary Stewart TREVILLION '04, MS, Mississippi State University, 2006  
Jennie Elizabeth ZEHR '04, MEd, Converse College, 2008  
Laura ALEXANDER Flack '05, MMEd, UNC at Greensboro, 2008  
Carolyn Marie DUNAWAY '05 MEd, EdS, Converse College, 2008  
Briana Leigh JOHNSON Wright '05, MEd, Converse College, 2008  
Elizabeth PATTERSON Moloney '05, MAT, Converse College, 2008  
Stephanie POWER '05, MEd, Converse College, 2008  
Courtney Evans ROSSLEY '05, MAT, Converse College, 2008  
Amanda Ruth BURGESS '06, MFA, Fairleigh Dickinson University, 2008  
Timothy Reid NELSON '06 MEd, EdS, Converse College, 2008

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Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

You may email information for Life Events to [nancy.gage@converse.edu](mailto:nancy.gage@converse.edu) or use the Keep Us Current form under Alumnae at [www.converse.edu](http://www.converse.edu) or call the Alumnae Office at 1-800-584-9098. Please include your phone or email so we may contact you if additional information is needed.

## CLASS OF 1929

80th Reunion  
Alumnae Weekend, 2009

### Representative:

Mary Hamilton Stephens  
1000 Wesley Pines Road  
Lumberton, NC 28358



## CLASS OF 1933

Next Reunion  
Alumnae Weekend, 2009

### Representative:

Blanche Dennis Cantey  
100 Joseph Walker Drive  
West Columbia, SC 29169

## CLASS OF 1943

Next Reunion  
Alumnae Weekend, 2009

### Representative:

Barbara Brown Lee  
706 N Summit Crest Court  
Spartanburg, SC 29307, 864-582-4668  
E-mail: babbsLee@att.net

Six of us celebrated our 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Golden Club luncheon on April 25. To all who could not be there, we really missed you! Those attending were **Betsy Gilmore Milsteen**, **Eunice Purnell Hodges**, **Mary Frances Morgan**, **Marsha Parrish Flow**, **Betty Oates Gage** and **Barbara Brown Lee**. We were joined by Marsha's daughter, Ruth Flow Morrow. It was a bright, balmy April day and the campus looked lovely in fresh spring finery. The luncheon was held in the Montgomery Student Center. We enjoyed a glass of wine and delicious lunch seated at round tables with colorful bouquets of spring flowers on each table. We were the senior class represented. Since none of our group was staying overnight, we decided to forego the class dinner and the class meeting on Saturday morning. Instead, after lunch, we found a table in the lobby and held our class meeting there. Mary Fanny brought lots of pictures and stories to go with them. We shared memories, talked, laughed and had a great time. Marsha teaches piano and was preparing for her students' recital. She is the substitute organist at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Taylors, SC, where she served for 37 years as their regular organist. In addition, she performs with a group, which includes two flutes, three violins, several banjos and Marsha at the piano. Lively performances are given at various places around the community. Betsy, of course, wins the prize for traveling the farthest since she lives in Landrum, SC and England. Eunice has the most grandchildren and a number of greatgrands. Mary Fanny is in the process of "downsizing" from the home she lived in with her parents. One of my great pleasures is seeing her when she is at Caesars Head and I am near Brevard. Betty still has her home at Lake Summit and when not there, she is at Summit Hills, a retirement home in Spartanburg, where I have also moved. Please let me hear from you.

## CLASS OF 1944

65th Reunion  
Alumnae Weekend, 2009

### Representative:

Catherine Gant Powell  
122 Fairway Drive  
Washington, NC 27889, 252-975-6902



What a wonderful age we live in! I picked up the phone in September and **Helen Gellert Gary** was calling from Hawaii. Helen is a world traveler, tells people she is 45 years old, and I think she believes it herself. She is planning a New York visit in April to see her children. I hope to hear from others of you. Do not forget our 65<sup>th</sup> Reunion will be at Converse on April 25-25, 2009. Make your plans to attend.

## CLASS OF 1945

Next Reunion  
Alumnae Weekend, 2009

### Representatives:

Margaret Fulton Walker  
208 Crest Drive  
Mt. Olive, NC 28365, 919-658-2167  
E-mail: mfultonwalker@bellsouth.net  
Mary Fabisinski Roberts  
1506 NW 36<sup>th</sup> Way  
Gainesville, FL 32605, 352-376-7175

## CLASS OF 1946

Next Reunion  
Alumnae Weekend, 2009

### Representative:

Mary Helen Garrison Dalton  
3064 Ridgewood Road NW  
Atlanta, GA 30327, 404-355-0434  
E-mail: mhfdalton7@aol.com

**Dicksie Brown Cribb** is still active with The National Federation of Music Clubs. Every other year they hold the Ellis Competition for duo pianist at Converse. Dicksie still enjoys Lake Summit in the summer. **Janet Bloom Brooker** has given up travel temporarily since having hip surgery. Thankfully, Janet's three children and four grandchildren all live in Columbia, SC. **Louise Dunlap Howell** moved from Griffin, GA to a retirement home in Macon. Doesn't sound as if they have slowed down – they were flying to Seattle to spend one night with their son and the next day board a ship for a 56-day cruise of the South Pacific! **Ann Smith Bertini** moved from her home in Charlotte, NC to an apartment in Griffin, GA to be near her lawyer daughter, Mary. Mary brought Ann to Atlanta, GA one day; we had lunch and a great visit. **Spotswood Walker Box** has sold her helicopter. She had a granddaughter to get married in April. All her family love visiting her at Debordieu. **Mary Lynn Lewis Delany**'s children live close to her. They are all Carolina fans and pick her up on the way to the games. She has a grandson who is a senior this year. **Jean Claire Griffin** still lives in her home. She

won't go to a retirement home because they won't take her Boston Terrier. **Sally Gentry Horton** had a granddaughter married in March. Then there is also sad news, Sally lost her 41-year-old grandson to a heart attack. **Corbin Crafford Hume**'s three daughters have been a joy to her. Hurricane Ike took Corbin's power out for six days and the phone for three days, but her home was not damaged. **Ann Llewellyn Ditto** is trying to get back on the golf course. She has two daughters who live in Greensboro. **Rosa Strait** has moved to a retirement home in Rock Hill. She has had a lot of surgery, but is on the mend. She is still painting in oils and pastels. **Elizabeth Lee Wright** (Bea) lives in a retirement community and volunteers at a gift shop at the Botanical Garden. Don't forget to share your news. Forgive me if I ever misquote – it's just a senior moment. Until next time – best ever, **Mary Helen Dalton**

## CLASS OF 1947

Next Reunion  
Alumnae Weekend, 2009

### Representatives:

Mary Young Couzar  
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Jacksonville, FL 32210, 904-387-1793  
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## CLASS OF 1948

Next Reunion  
Alumnae Weekend, 2009

### Representative:

Eleanor "Skippy" Herbert Hale  
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Jacksonville, FL 32210, 904-387-9592  
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Alice Mobley Lipscombe  
107 Conyers Street  
Sumter, SC 29150, 803-773-8265  
E-mail: clipscombe@sc.rr.com

**Alice Mobley Lipscombe** was kind enough to volunteer to help **Eleanor "Skippy" Herbert Hale** with our class notes. Alice has gathered this time and here is what she learned. **Bert Hemingway Bunch** says she is grateful to still be around (aren't we all?). She lives in a high rise on the 18th floor and gets her exercise by walking up steps...10-14 minutes in winter, 20-25 minutes in summer. She is planning a cruise to the Panama Canal soon. **Julia Pinnix Elrod** enjoys living at Wellspring Retirement Home in Greensboro, NC. She has a nice sunroom--even has an invisible fence to keep her little dog home. Speaking of retirement homes, **Frances Holladay** lives in one in Richmond, VA, where she has met a lovely widower whom she is dating. His mother and sisters went to Converse. You go, gal! **Anne Prothro Goldsmith** has been doing the wedding thing - both her grandchildren were married this year. One wedding was in Washington and one in Wilmington, NC. **Marian Ritchie Johnson** has nine grandchildren; the oldest is married,

the next is to be married and the youngest are six and eight. **Annabel Cribb Moses** is enjoying living in Sumter, SC now where her husband has extended family connections. Skippy Hale had a lovely cruise to Alaska last summer and enjoyed a nice visit with **May Bynum Sharp**, and Alice Mobley Lipscombe while passing thru Sumter. **Polly Welborn McAlpine** continues to teach piano and is still an organist at First Presbyterian Church in Bennettsville, SC.

### CLASS OF 1949

60th Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2009

**Representative:**

Kitty Peeler Carson

401 Springdale Drive  
Union, SC 29379, 864-427-3353  
E-mail: ladykc@bellsouth.net



What fun to see **Mary Johnson Nanney Brady** and **Marianne Ellison Bartram** at the recent Golden Club Luncheon! Marianne and Tom have just settled into a new, lovely but smaller home and really love it. Mary recently celebrated a birthday with a barn dance and is still teaching line dancing at the local Shepherds' Center, in spite of two hip replacements! Amazing! Love seeing **Lib Harper Hopkins** at alumnae board meetings. She is very dedicated, driving up from Tampa. She still has many local friends who entertain her when she is in town. Here are a few items that missed the last *Bulletin* as they sat in my draft file, written up but not E-mailed! Is my face red? It was a joy to see **Jackie Parrish Ladshaw** from Lilburn, GA at the April reunion. Believe it or not, Jackie is STILL teaching elementary children music. Indestructible, I call it. She looked wonderful and was full of pep and enthusiasm for living! **Zula McFadyen Barton** wrote from Fayetteville, NC. Grandson Scott was married last year at Amelia Island Plantation. She celebrated her 80th birthday and Reggie's 85th and their 60th wedding anniversary last year. She remains in touch with her roommates **Jane Griffin Simms** and

**Martha Paxton Beale**. **Peggy Bradford Long** was regaled in June 2008 this year with two fantastic birthday get-togethers in Washington, DC. First were cocktails and dinner at the Sulgrave Club in downtown DC for about 80 guests, and the second, a Potomac luncheon cruise on the Presidential yacht, the US Sequoia for about 50 guests. Yours truly was a happy reveler at both events, taking advantage of an already planned visit with my Pentagon son, Trey, in Arlington, VA. I hope you are looking forward to our 60th Reunion come April '09. Please contact your best Converse buddies and be a part of this very special time. You will be amazed at the changes and improvements on campus and adore all those who host us in the Alumnae Office. Spartanburg now also claims a beautiful new Marriott for your visiting pleasure. Keep in touch.

### CLASS OF 1950

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2009

**Representative:**

Mary Alice Ingram Busch  
1509 Cherokee Road  
Florence, SC 29501, 842-662-1622

### CLASS OF 1951

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2009

**Representative:**

Priscilla Beard Blosser-Rainey  
Post Office Box 706  
Timberville, VA 22853, 540-896-9931  
E-mail: prisrainey@hughes.net

**Eunice Sullivan Pracht's** grandson, Christopher Pratt, graduated from Charleston School of Law, Magna Cum Laude. **Evie Gilliland Gibson** and Henry mingled with whales, bears and glaciers during their September '08 trip with Alaska Outdoors. Three great grandchildren under two years old gets **Libby Hamer Chandler** and Jack a blue ribbon for the "mostest." Dr. Jack claims lousy golfer as current title. **Polly**

**Hill Woodham** and **Carolyn Byrd Tipton** of Asheville, NC keep up with energetic Converse President Betsy Fleming, speeches and coming events. Polly serves on the Converse Alumnae Board and lives in Carolyn's area of Asheville, NC. **Jean Hollerith Case** attended funeral services for Bun Wyatt Wyatt '53, younger sister of **Dot Wyatt Adams**. Julie Jones Daniels '53, (Bun's friend) also attended. **Maude Bull Clinkscales** continues playing organ and piano for her church. Maude loves crossword puzzles while Mac does a big garden. **Ann Ratterree Herlong**, concert pianist, recently performed for the Music Club of Columbia and is preparing for coming concerts at Converse College and in Chester, SC. **Priscilla Beard Blosser-Rainey** will be attending the '08 National Hand Spinners Conference, "Spin Off Autumn Retreat," in Pocono Manor, PA. She continues her music by playing the Alpine Horn and the piano. **Nancy "Tootsie" Ouzts Demo** and her sister went to Russia in 2008 and plans to go to Egypt in 2009.

### CLASS OF 1952

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2009

**Representative:**

Suzie Earnhardt Smith  
370 Montgomery Drive  
Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-582-2415  
E-mail: sesmas@charter.net

### CLASS OF 1953

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2009

**Representative:**

Marilyn Mateer Sherrill  
114 Briarwood Court  
Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-583-8066

Congratulations to **Julia Jones Daniels** and her husband Frank, who were both inducted into the Raleigh Hall of Fame on September 9, 2008!

## ALUMNAE EVENTS



July 24, 2008

Cashiers, NC cocktail party in the home of Alec and Anne Flintom McLeod '63.



August 28, 2008

Lake Summit, NC cocktail party in the home of Rose Montgomery Johnston.

## CLASS OF 1954

55th Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2009

Representative:

Betsy Shepherd Ancrum

35 Honeysuckle Woods

Lake Wylie, SC 29710, 803-831-0205

704-585-7784 cell

E-mail: bancrum@bellsouth.net



**HEADS UP FOR OUR 55<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION OF GRADUATION! This one is worth noting, girls, so start planning now to be on campus April 24-25, 2009.** You will get more details as time goes along, but Mary Joe Erwin Worth and I already have our reservations at the Marriott (864-596-1211) and are really looking forward to it. At our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion I was hobbling along with a walker and a lot of whining; this time, two new hips have brought on a changed attitude and a new woman who is ready to lead the parade. Speaking of new women, **Bette Hannah Sprecher** has actually quit smoking! Can you believe it? When we spoke in June, she was rapidly recovering from shoulder surgery and says she feels great in spite of having developed diabetes. Obviously, being septuagenarians "ain't all beer and skittles" - but getting senior rates is nice, and at least wrinkles and gray hair don't hurt. If you have read the other columns in this issue, you know we lost our sweet **Mary Moore Wannamaker** recently and maybe some others that I do not know about. Our class is dwindling faster these days; with that in mind, **let's turn past memories into current fun while we are still able to!** See you in April!

## CLASS OF 1955

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2009

Representative:

Jo Ann Guyton Davison

1722 Peggio Lane #1

Missoula, MT 59802, 406-829-6376

Word has come of the death of **Jane Davis Griffin's** husband George...our sympathy to Jane on the loss of her companion of so many years. There is good news and bad news to report about **Nan Brown Foster**. The good news: Nan and Robert W. Duke ("Bobby," Clemson '53) of Kingstree, SC were married on July 19, 2008. The bad news: shortly afterwards Nan broke her arm! That did not prevent the newlyweds from taking a lovely trip to the Shenandoah Valley. (Hopefully by the time you read this Nan's left arm will be as good as new.) Best wishes to Nan and Bobby. **Jane Marie Hancock Jennings** says that she attended homecoming at Wofford and ran into **Eleanor Breazeale Troutman**. Jane Marie has been a little slowed down by a knee replacement in March 2008. She had the other knee replaced in March 2007. She claims that she is planning a brain replacement in March 2009, and says she is going to get a new body part every March from now on! **Hagood Huckabee Potter**

says that she sees the Florence girls occasionally. Hagood's daughter and son-in-law have added to their "Carolina Plantation Rice" line of products: grits and a seafood breader made from rice flour. Maybe you saw the feature about their company that appeared on the television show, "Dirty Jobs?" Hagood's namesake, granddaughter, Helen Hagood, has been modeling for national advertisements and has appeared on MTV. Hagood's grandson is a freshman at Wofford. The last week in October **Mary Brobston Cleverdon** and her husband, John, drove to Dallas, TX and had a nice visit with **Dorothy Dykers Baker** who once stumped a Converse College breakfast table with the question: "Should you say 'grits are good' or 'grits is good'?" I am enjoying having my daughter and granddaughter living a ten-minute drive away. What are you enjoying – or not? Please write or call me with your news. Your classmates want to hear about you!

## CLASS OF 1956

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2009

Representatives:

Mary Oeland Alexander

201 Harris Street

Bishopville, SC 29010, 803-484-5711

Ann Hudgens Karegeannes

137 Mabry Drive

Spartanburg, SC 29307, 864-579-3801

E-mail: karja56@aol.com

Pegilie Price Walter

616 Wotan Road

Columbia, SC 803-419-0986

E-mail: walter@umcsc.org

**Ann Hudgens Karegeannes** was pleased to see **Sunshine Connor Norwood** and **Langhorne Cooke Hipp** at the Golden Club table during the Reunion Weekend. We hope that more of you will attend the luncheon in April 2009. We keep having new grandchildren in our Converse class family. **Bettie Jane Woodward Grant** has a new grandson and **Pegilie Price Walter** has a new granddaughter. We are sure there are lots of great grands as well. We have very good news from **Carolyn Belcher Hansard**. She had unexpected open-heart surgery this summer and is reporting to us that she was working through cardiac rehab in October. She wishes to thank her friends and classmates for all of their prayers and good wishes via calls, notes and E-mails. **Tolly Gilmer Shelton** and Barrett celebrated their 50th anniversary by renting a house for a week in Tuscany. The extended family came to visit with them through the week. Everyone took side trips to experience the area. With good news of happy family times come the unhappy moments of our lives. **Sammie Howell Peirson** has informed us of her ongoing battle with lung cancer. She says she spends part of her time in Georgia and part in Florida. **Carolyn Byers Brockwell** has told us that her son Chris Downey had surgery in March to remove a benign brain tumor. Unfortunately, his optic nerves were

affected, and he lost his sight. As an architect, his work capacity is limited, but Carolyn says he has taken control of his life and is doing things that he can do, including outdoor activities. We offer our sympathy and condolences to **Mary Oeland Alexander** and Tom, who lost their son Bert to a sudden illness in July, and to **Libby Evans Green**, whose husband Charles died in May of this year. It was good to see **Ross Magoulas** back on the campus in November. He directed the Converse Opera Workshop production of "The Mikado" just before Thanksgiving. Please stay in touch with your news. Using E-mail, contact Ann at karja56@aol.com or Pegilie at walter@umcsc.org.

## CLASS OF 1957

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2009

Representative:

Marguerite Gignilliat Old

314 Jackson Avenue

Lexington, VA 24450, 540-463-5436

**Nancy Barron Smith** enjoyed talking with **Eleanor Cullum Studley** recently. Nancy and Watt live in Orangeburg, SC and Eleanor and Bob live in Aiken, SC. Eleanor and Bob are the proud grandparents of James and Julia Higgins, born on July 25. Daughter Lucile and son-in-law Michael are doing well and enjoying being parents of twins.

## CLASS OF 1958

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2009

Representatives:

Elaine Finklea Folline

740 Kilbourne Road

Columbia, SC 29205, 803-254-9503

Nancy Hayes Wilkerson

2122 Norton Road

Charlotte, NC 28207, 704-376-4776

E-mail: nwilkerson@bellsouth.net

**Anne Ferguson Caughman** and **Daisy Barron Leland** celebrated their birthdays together (which are ten days apart) at lunch at The Sanctuary on Kiawah Island. Anne recently enjoyed a bus trip up the eastern seaboard to Nova Scotia, with many interesting stops along the way. Anne and Daisy both have five grandchildren who give them much pleasure. **Caroline Taylor Reddick** is still serving as the organist after 38 years at the First United Methodist Church in Lake Wales, FL. Caroline and **Elaine Finklea Folline** are two of our very active classmates as they both continue to play tennis. Maybe they will share some of their energy with those of us who need a boost. Caroline's four children have blessed her with seven grandchildren. She is looking forward to having all of them with her at Christmas. **Betty Anne Nelson Richardson** just sent Daisy a Star copy of the 1979 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary football team for Columbia High – and Daisy's dad was organizer for his 1929 teammates! **Sally Hicks Reardon** worked for weeks at One Stop, the early voting office in Fayetteville, NC. Sally worked from

7:00 am to 7:30 pm and NEVER had time to sit down even five minutes, as the lines were so long! She said she believes next time she will work only for half-days. Husband Fred's melanoma surgery was a big success, and is opening his third antique store around Christmas time, with specialties in paintings and bronzes. **Nancy Hayes Wilkerson** and Bud, with two other couples, are social chairmen for their Sunday School. Last fall they planned a trip for thirty church members to tour parts of Virginia: Natural Bridge, UVA, Monticello, etc. – places that were the western frontier for our nation with the first Presidents! Nancy recommends seeing The Drama of Creation at Natural Bridge, and finding where George Washington carved initials from a boat whose waters were far deeper than ours. (How many of our streams have also become shallow?) **Mary Searle Rowland** had the terrible misfortune of forgetting to apply for her driver's license before her birthday, and she wants us all to quickly get the new license, as the expired card will not let you drive your own car to the grocery.

## CLASS OF 1959

### 50th Reunion

### Alumnae Weekend, 2009

#### Representatives:

Jayne Callaham Burton

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York, SC 29745, 803-831-1978  
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Angela McKinnon Hammond  
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Louisa, VA 23093, 540-967-0920  
E-mail: angela\_hammond0@yahoo.com

Jane Torkington White  
4607 177<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98006, 425-562-0787



APRIL 24-25, 2009 is a big date for the '59ers.. our 50th Reunion! Hope to see all of you at Converse for this one! **Sally Howie McDevitt** was in St. Lo, France on July 17, 2008 for two major celebrations - the 100th birthday of her father, Major Thomas D. Howie, and the annual liberation celebration of St. Lo. Major Howie. He commanded a battalion of the 29th Infantry Division, which led the liberation of St. Lo in 1944, freeing it from Nazi domination. He was killed on the outskirts of the city. Also in the group, was Sally's cousin, Sam Howie, a Converse English professor. **Eliza (Tink) Macaulay Carney** finally got her daughter, Eliza, and grandson Tommy to visit Converse. They were very impressed with the campus. Granddaughter, Eliza (17) and Tommy (14) went with their parents to hear Barack Obama at the Democratic National Convention in Denver, CO. They were featured in an article entitled "The Obama Generation" in an Italian newspaper, along with photos and short quotes from each. **Harriet (Sister) Marshall Goode**, our favorite artist, had another exhibition of her paintings in November at Lander University. Jayne would like to get some of you who live close to Rock Hill, SC to join her and visit Sister and her gallery. "I heard it through the grapevine" that **Ruth**

**Junker Mitchell** has been offered a wonderful job in California as a fundraiser for a huge music conservatory with their own orchestra. She has left CT and is staying with friends while condominium hunting. She has a son and daughter-in-law in California so she will be close to some of her family. Congratulations, Ruth! **Rosann Ferguson Hooks** went on another eye-care mission trip in June 2008, this time to Belize. She also had a great trip to western Ireland and Ennis in July with her sister in law. **Jayne Callaham Burton** and Tom plan to visit Washington, DC while their granddaughter's Megan's artwork "After the Swim" is on exhibition in the Old Post Office Building in the offices of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities. **Jane Torkington White** and husband, Buddy, celebrated their 50th anniversary in August. Presently they are in the Seattle area, but plan to move back South to Tallahassee, FL.

## CLASS OF 1960

### Next Reunion

### Alumnae Weekend, 2010

#### Representative:

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

Hope all of you had a wonderful 2008 and will make a note to send Alumnae news throughout 2009 so that we can keep up with you and your family. We were all saddened to hear of the death of **Carole Jones** in May of 2008. You may remember that Carole's grandson, Dustin Johnson, began playing golf as a pro on the PGA tour..he won his first tournament, the Turning Stone Resort Championship in New York on October 5, 2008. In an interview after the tournament he was asked about his grandmother Carole, who was such an important part of his life; he answered, "I know she's watching; I know she was there with me and I know she's happy." The win put his earnings over \$1.7 million for the year. We wish him continued success in '09. Please...make a point to send in your news...this is a great way to keep in touch. Happiness to all of you for 2009! Donna

## CLASS OF 1961

### Next Reunion

### Alumnae Weekend, 2011

#### Representatives:

Betsy Blythe Frazer  
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Chapel Hill, NC 27517, 919-402-0409  
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Frances Taylor Meissner  
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Seaford, VA 23696, 757-898-4277  
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Laura Simpkins Stock  
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White Post, VA 22663, 540-837-2473  
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In July, **Betsy Blythe Frazer** and Don met their NYC son and daughter-in-law in Blowing Rock, NC for a few enjoyable days. In August, they had a wonderful trip to Helsinki, St Petersburg, and a river cruise to Moscow. In August, **Martha Brockinton Roberts** and Ed spent a few days in Paris prior to a cruise of the British Isles. **Ann Carol Hall Price** and husband took the same identical trip on the same ship but at a different time in '08. They also had a wonderful trip to China in '07. Ann Carol retired in '06 from educational consulting business after 24 years. **Frances Taylor Meissner** and Charles who live in Seaford, VA enjoyed watching their daughter participate in an Ironman triathlon in Louisville, KY in late August. Earlier in the year, they enjoyed a trip to Arizona. Frances spent a week as a delegate to the Virginia Methodist Conference in Roanoke. During the summer, **Jo Carr Ussery** and Harry flew to Vancouver, Canada where they took the train to the seaport city of Seward, Alaska to board the ship, Regent Seven Seas Mariner, for a magnificent 8-day cruise stopping at numerous ports for sightseeing and excursions. Sitka, once under Russian control, was a favorite spot and seeing the glaciers was quite breath-taking reported Jo. **Elsie Whetsell Stevens** and Bob, their daughter, Mary Heyward Harper, husband, Frampton and sons, Lawton (13) and Luke (10) had a wonderful trip in May to Kennebunkport, MA to visit Elsie's brother and his wife as well as spending time in Boston and New Hampshire. Elsie is very active in the Community Bible Study, which is one of the classes of the International Bible Study. Classes are taught all over the world and the headquarters for the International Bible Study is in Colorado Springs, CO. If any Converse women are interested in becoming involved or need information on this, they can reach Elsie in Beaufort, SC at 843-524-2738. **Suzie Gasque McIntyre** and Duncan reside full time in Murrells Inlet, SC. One of their daughters lives in the Georgetown section of Washington, DC, where she chases her two young children, ages two and four.

## CLASS OF 1962

### Next Reunion

### Alumnae Weekend, 2012

#### Representative:

Dixie Crum Stone  
9419 Owl Trace Drive  
Chesterfield, VA 23838, 804-748-4755  
E-mail: dixiestone@comcast.net

I had a wonderful chat with **Deas Brunson Penman** recently, although she is temporarily in a wheelchair. She broke two bones in her ankle; she is getting along well – expecting to be back on her feet soon. She had a great visit with her son Jimmy and his family who live in Tega Cay, SC. Jimmy works with Madison & Marquette in Charlotte, NC and does a radio show. Of course, Deas especially enjoyed spending time with her granddaughter, Marilyn-Deas! **Sonya Lindblom Gressel** and her husband Alan live on a 33-acre farm in central North Carolina. They train dressage horses and

## CLASSNOTES

# ALUMNAE EVENTS



September 16, 2008  
Birmingham, AL cocktail party at the Mountain Brook Club  
hosted by Mike and Gillian White Goodrich '68.



September 30, 2008  
Greenville, SC cocktail party at the home of Mike and  
Nancy Orders Smith '75.

riders. Sonya writes travel articles for the *Greensboro News-Record* (they travel extensively) and articles on artists for the online magazine, *Community Arts Café*, as well as photography for both. Alan is a semi-retired consultant in Oil Re-Refining and was recently awarded a medal for lifetime service to the industry. Sonya's daughter, Roxanne, is a trainer/rider for the Lipizzaner Stallion shows. She is their senior and experienced rider and she has been on the road for nearly two years. Sonya's son, Adam, is a legal researcher (and a computer wizard on the side). He has a son who is 15 and a daughter who is 12. Sonja home schools her grandson and teaches drawing and painting to him and his two close friends. Sonja and Alan travel quite a lot – and that is an understatement!! Within the past two years, they have been around the world: Egypt, Israel, the Netherlands, France, Austria, Germany, Shanghai, Kyoto, Beijing and San Francisco two years ago and one year ago they visited Barcelona, Sitges, the Ardeche and London. In addition, when I corresponded with Sonja, they had just returned from Israel. **Rannie Sparkman Townsend's** oldest grandson, Thomas, is in the army, currently at Fort Drum. He will be deployed to Afghanistan in a couple of months. Let's remember Thomas and all of our other military personnel.

## CLASS OF 1963

Next Reunion  
Alumnae Weekend, 2013

Representatives:

Lou Hoffer Bright

1103 Sourwood Circle  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517, 919-968-1455

Betty Moore Henderson

13302 Tosca Lane  
Houston, TX 77079, 713-465-0940  
E-mail: eliza.henderson@att.net

Emily Kerr Stay

9619 Pekin Road  
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The faithful **Emily Kerr Stay** is taking a break from column writing to enjoy her quilting and embroidery, so I (**Betty Moore Henderson**) am doing the newsgathering and typing this time. **Jane Bryant Block** and I have almost dug ourselves out from under the tree debris that Hurricane Ike dumped in our Houston yards - but thankfully not on our houses. Our third class rep, **Lou Hoffer Bright**, is busy going back to school at NC Central to work on a degree in Art Education. **Judy Wainer Ponce** E-mailed me about enjoying her yoga classes and her children's artistic and linguistic accomplishments in Mexico. **Carlisle Caughman Harvard** E-mailed news of the trips she's taken now that she's retired – plus the enjoyment she gets from having their two granddaughters in Durham, NC. **Hattee Ziegler Christian**, **Anne Flintom McLeod**, **Nancy Brown Davis**, **Cecelia Quantz Nettles** and **Julia Adams McLaurin** all recently enjoyed a fun visit with **Margaret Charles Stubbs** at her Litchfield beach house. **Gelene Duncan Ellsworth** had a happy summer with the awarding of daughter Ashleigh's second master's degree, and then Ashleigh's wedding, which **Wallace Johnson** and **Linda Niven Tiller** helped the Ellsworths celebrate. **Cecil Lewis Caldwell** sent joyous news of daughter Julia's beautiful September wedding. **Lish Early Willey** has moved back to Birmingham, AL to be near her three grandchildren, reporting it was worth the turmoil of relocating. **Hattie Liddon Andersen** visited Lish in mid-summer. **Elaine Smith Thompson** celebrated her birthday with a house party, including five grandchildren under the age of 21-months (three were Elaine's), so it was crazy before a summer storm eliminated the electricity! **Anne Waters Green** has happy news – the birth of grandchild #1, Harrison Westbrook Gan. **Connie Kelly Hood** enjoys life in Tennessee – teaching college, traveling and writing a book about mentoring gifted college students. **Betty Reynolds Oare** had dinner with **Bonnie Ramey Newell** in Florida recently. The former roommates

have plans for another visit this winter when the Oares take their horses south for the winter circuit. **Sylvia Crouch** spent the summer in rural Kenya, teaching art to elementary children. She e-mailed me photos of elephants crossing her path on the way to school!

## CLASS OF 1964

45th Reunion

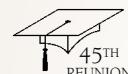
Alumnae Weekend, 2009

Representatives:

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It's coming quickly - our 45th Reunion!!! I find this a VERY difficult concept to grasp. Can we have departed Converse that many years ago? Well, the calendar says we did, and time continues to march on. Do we dare think that our next reunion will be our "Golden" one?? BEFORE we get to that point and fall into that category that we used to chuckle about in our younger reunion days, I think we all ought to make a concerted effort to get to our upcoming reunion in April (the 24th and 25th) while we still all recognize each other. Geez, we might change in another five years!! Do seriously try to make it. It is always fun to see each other again, and for those of you who have not joined us in the past, we surely would LOVE to see you. I think of so many of you so often and wonder where you are, how you are, etc. I had a wonderful visit with your other class rep and my "partner in crime," **Babs**, in October. She, along with daughter Jennifer, son-in-law Philippe, and granddaughter Charlotte, spent a week with me. We had a great time and it was so good to be together. Charlotte is one of the happiest babies I have ever seen - and decidedly one of the

prettiest! **Judy Brown Christopher** continues to use her talents to the max. In addition to singing with her jazz group, she has now been cast in the role of Mrs. Banks in Neil Simon's "Barefoot in the Park." She'll be performing at the Desert Rose Playhouse in Albuquerque, NM in January and February of 2009. Way to go, Judy! I welcomed a new granddaughter, Allie Kate, into my life on August 22. She is the 4th child of my son, Brian, and his wife, Tiffany, and joins her three siblings and two cousins (children of daughter, Dawn, and son-in-law, Wayne). Hope all of you are doing well and I really hope we have a record turnout for our reunion in April! **Joan Foster McKeown**

## CLASS OF 1965

### Next Reunion

### Alumnae Weekend, 2010

#### Representative:

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**Tris Gowen Graybeal** had a wonderful visit with **Nancy Lea "Bird" Arundale Schon** and **Missy Keller Hatt** and husbands during their annual Virginia Beach vacation in July. They did their best to avoid any discussion regarding their new status as Medicare eligibles! Tris also ran into Brenda Burke McGeehee '64 twice this summer, as well as visiting with me while she was here for a Converse Board of Visitors meeting. **Marion Rivers Cato** is spreading her energies around – boating on the coast, riding horses in Wyoming, supporting Charleston events, and serving on the Converse Board of Trustees. **Anna Dean Johnson** continues to spearhead her great catering business. **Nancy "Lovey" Daniel Mottern** and Bob took a trip to the Southwest in September with Lyn Law Johnson '64 and Rick. They enjoyed Sedona, the Grand Canyon, Zion National Park and Las Vegas, but most of all they enjoyed being with Converse friends. I called **Kathy Cohen Willard** for more news but she did not have any either, so please send me a note or E-mail for our next issue.

## CLASS OF 1966

### Next Reunion

### Alumnae Weekend, 2011

#### Representatives:

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**Trudy Harlow-Dervan** spent most of the past year dealing with two knee replacements -- OUCH! Now back on both feet, she divides her time between her new "child," a mini goldendoodle,

and her two grandchildren. In September 2008, she and daughter Kirby spent a girls' weekend in New Mexico. Trudy writes that she "would love to hear from old friends who have seemingly vanished into thin air." **Happy Green McLeod** has finalized her move from Pawleys Island, SC to Tryon, NC. We see each other frequently at various events in the Tryon area, such as the Block House Steeplechase Races, where we spent the day in the rain. She is still involved in real estate services, now with Remax in Tryon, and would like to hear from old Converse friends. E-mail happy@pawleysisland-realestate.com. Also at the rainy Block House was **Robbie Brown Gray** who lives in Hendersonville, NC with her husband Bill, an old Wofford friend of my husband Ray. In August, we all attended a lovely cocktail reception for President Betsy Fleming at the Lake Summit, NC home of Rose Montgomery Johnston. **Lynn Harrison Johnston** is back in Greenwood, SC, after many years in Florida. She and Sid are enjoying their Folly Beach, SC cottage and keeping up with their two sons. **Donna Perry Vandiver** and Mike have retired to Mike's hometown of Anderson, SC. **Jane Pitts Autrey**, after four years of living and working abroad, is now in Charlotte, NC, working as administrative manager for the NC offices of the Nelson Mullins Law Firm in Charlotte, Winston-Salem, and Raleigh, NC. She spends a good bit of time on the road, and would like to get together with classmates in any of those cities. E-mail: jane.autrey@nelsonmullins.com. In June my McLees "Colorado Contingent" (daughter, two sons, and one daughter-in-law), all flew east for a gorgeous week with Ray and me on Edisto Island, SC. Then in July, I joined my old pal Meredith Mims Helms '68 and her husband Mitch in the south of France for several weeks. In October, Ray and I enjoyed spending time with Robbie Brown Gray and Bill, and **Linda Whitnel Crimm** and Jesse at Wofford Homecoming.

## CLASS OF 1967

### Next Reunion

### Alumnae Weekend, 2012

#### Representative:

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**Kaki Williams Swann** reports that **Dianne Williams Black**, **Brenda Williams Bowers**, and **Molly Stapleford Derick** met at **Susan Tufts'** house for lunch and conversation. The others were having a giant house party at Susan's all week and **Porter Farmer White** joined them later in the week. They have all retired from their jobs. **Melinda Crow Harper** and her husband Bruce are still living in Coral Gables, and she is still teaching at St. Stephens's Episcopal Day School. **Lee Tabb Lauterbach** saw **Anne Bennett** and **Nancy Davis** in Virginia this summer. **Cassandra Jones Husted** just returned from spending a few days

with **Anne Jones Holloway** in Fredericksburg, VA. Anne is busily helping her daughter plan her April wedding. **Ann Armour McCoy** stopped by for a brief visit in Lexington in June. Cassandra became a grandmother in June. Bob's son Tom and wife had a healthy baby girl. **Susan Dewey Jackson** came and spent the last weekend in June with **Dicke Tredway Sloop** and they had a great time catching up. Susan lives in Asheville, NC. Dicke saw **Sandra Sherard Bethea** at the beach in August and had lunch with her at her beach house. Dicke saw **Lucia Cleveland Johnson** at the fall alumnae meeting. It was great being back on campus and seeing all the positive changes that are taking place there under the guidance of Betsy Fleming. Dicke's daughter Cris is in her third year of remission after being treated for Hodgkin's Lymphoma. **Ginny Cleveland Walker** and husband Bryan are retired and living in Columbia, SC. **Ansley Williams Strifling** and Jan and **Memi Speth Kinard** and Porter also live nearby. **Florence Wofford Liddell**'s daughter Alice and husband Jay Rooke have moved to Walnut Creek, CA where they see **Richie Wilkinson** and her husband John Bolgoni with some regularity. Florence's summer travels took them to Lake Baikal in Siberia, then to Mongolia where they experienced an exquisite total solar eclipse! Florence continues to be active in environmental endeavors.

## CLASS OF 1968

### Next Reunion

### Alumnae Weekend, 2013

#### Representatives:

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We hope you reviewed the photo of our classmates who attended our 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion in the last *Converse Bulletin*. At our Class Meeting we voted unanimously to start a special five-year "Class of 1968 Capital Initiative". Pledges are coming in and we appreciate everyone's response to our letters. **Joanne Gilmer Cole**'s husband, Charlie was severely injured in June from falling down a flight of stairs at their home. He spent several months at the Shepherd Spinal Center in Atlanta and is expected to return home in November. Thanks to all of you who have spent time with Joanne and given her so much support. The website to keep in touch is: caringbridge.

## CLASSNOTES

org/visit/charliecolejr. Louise Kelley Diehl and husband Lon moved to Chiang Mai, Thailand, in 2005 where they started a training center for Chinese Christians from the mainland who want to serve as missionaries. Ginger Reynolds is an active composer and teacher at the MacPhail Center for the Arts in Minneapolis, MN, and her work "From the Crest of a Hill" was premiered by her sister's chorus in Virginia, May 2007. Judy Webb Lanier came all the way from her home in Paris, France, for her first visit to Converse since graduation. She and husband, Jean, will be living between their homes in Wainscott, NY and Paris. Ada Anderson Snow is teaching Adult Basic Education to ESL (English as 2<sup>nd</sup> Language) students who are studying for their GED. Her three talented daughters are working for the UN and US State Department. Carol Early Graham is Director of Music at All Saints Episcopal Church, Vista, CA. Caroline Grimball is a sales manager for cosmetics and intimate apparel at the new Belk store in the Village at Sandhill, Columbia, SC. Cindy Archibald Purcell is "You Name It-I Do It" at Huckins Yacht Corporation, Jacksonville, FL. If you would like to contact any of your classmates, we have been updating the list and will be happy to hear from you. Send an E-mail or call one of your class reps.

## CLASS OF 1969

### 40th Reunion

#### Alumnae Weekend, 2009

##### Representatives:

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OK Girls—our 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion (!) is April 24-25. Gay Cook Robson, Lee Ann Lowry Harris, Martha Ryburn Johnson Stainton, Martha Barron Barnes, Nancy Joiner Hiatt and Pookie McLaughlin Banks have already made reservations. The rest of you get busy! Come see old friends and the new Converse. Trust me - you have to be there to believe it - creativity galore, exciting new majors, and fantastic renovations. Beverly White Spicer has "gone grey" and loves her new look. She writes a column for *The Digital Journalist*, a monthly online magazine for visual journalism, writes features and book reviews, and has done some online work for *The Santiago Times* in Chile. Work related trips to France and Chile were on tap for fall. Anita Parker Zeigler is volunteer children's director of Charlotte's Community Bible Study and loves being "song girl" for the preschoolers. She and Charlie travel

between Charlotte, NC and DeBordieu, SC. They have one of four children married and enjoy having their two grandchildren in Charlotte, NC. Beth Stringfellow Spann is busy with garden club, church chancel guild and Anderson County Friends of the Library. Henry retired from high school and now teaches English at Anderson University. Daughter Elizabeth has two children and her second mystery novel, *Pretty is as Pretty Dies*, debuts next summer. Daughter Mary Ligon married in April. Trudy Tucker Thomson is living in Chapel Hill, NC and has her own business, Trudy Thomson and Associates. She took early retirement from corporate life and is now writing/producing videos for non-profits, corporations, and agencies. Cathy Mancke Tisdale and Norman just returned from Greece, an especially wonderful trip because this time last year she was in post-surgery chemotherapy for ovarian cancer. She is thankful to report no evidence of disease today. Hooray Cathy! Becky Stowe Ruff has a new grandson in Chicago and flew out in November to help daughter Stowe bring baby and big brother home for a visit. Pookie McLaughlin Banks and Woody attended a Denver wedding in August and met sons Parker and Trip in Breckenridge for a wonderful family week. See you in April! Melissa Daves Johnson will host our class dinner at her house so mark your calendars.

## CLASS OF 1970

### Next Reunion

#### Alumnae Weekend, 2010

##### Representatives:

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Lynnie Hicks Mitchell  
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Claire Hailey Hall welcomed twin grandchildren into her family and is busy helping her daughter Hailey with the babies. Claire's car can now make the trip from Greenville to Rock Hill, SC on its own. Pam Holderness Hassenfelt and Smack Mack run into each other early on Saturday mornings at the Farmers Market and on Sunday mornings at church. Pam stays busy caring for her mom, volunteering and keeping up with her daughters. Smack's latest hobby is seeing how much she can support the local farmers market and how little she can buy at the grocery store. Smack is working on another certification, enjoying the challenges of being a resource teacher in the public schools, care-giving for her mom, teaching church school, doing volunteer work and dealing with injuries from a driver running a red light. Perry Hicks Jordan has been traveling a lot this year to daughter Sara's soccer games. Daughter Liz works in the Big Apple. Howard Brown Millican is now an empty nester, as son

David is at Davidson. David has a real interest in snakes and has some pet snakes. One got loose and is yet to be found. Is Howard a good sport or what! Thayer Cheatham Willis continues her busy life of raising her two children with husband Jon and managing her business as a wealth counselor, speaker and author. Thayer is an excellent writer. In the most recent issue, she wrote about the value of improvisation in family dynamics, as it requires creativity, listening and cooperation. Lynnie Hicks Mitchell reports that both daughters are happy in their jobs; Mary Lyons wears many hats as a program coordinator for a YMCA in the Memphis, TN area; Laurie is a program assistant for an organization in Washington, DC that encourages "green" buildings. Lynnie's daughters surprised her in Myrtle Beach, SC by attending a gathering of friends for her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. The theme of the weekend was "Girl Scout Troop 60 Jamboree." Classmates Claire Hailey Hall, Howard Brown Millican and Smack were there.

## CLASS OF 1971

### Next Reunion

#### Alumnae Weekend, 2011

##### Representatives:

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Recently Jane Byrd Melton received an E-mail and picture of Harriette Adams Graham and Ellen Braddy Owens and their husbands enjoying the Fall Steeplechase in Aiken, SC. Jane talked with Liz Lesesne who lives in Asheville, NC. Jane is eager to see Liz's new house and get together for lunch. Jane studied most evenings and weekends from February to August and is now certified as a PMP – Project Manager Professional. Her brain was challenged with the material such as procurement and cost analysis. Jane works for Lincoln Financial Group as part of the computer technology department in Greensboro, NC. Please call or E-mail Jane so she can catch up with each of you.

## CLASS OF 1972

### Next Reunion

#### Alumnae Weekend, 2012

##### Representative:

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Nancy Wyckoff Engstrom's daughter Sarah will spend her junior year in Russia. Nancy's son Soren is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade this year. Please send me your news!

## CLASS OF 1973

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2013

Representative:

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Hi everyone! I'm back – yes, 20 years later, I am the lucky one to be reporting our class news again! (I really should have attended that class meeting during Reunion Weekend!) Thanks to **Sharon Amos Shealy** for updating me on several of our classmates. Sharon and **Mary Nell Rogers Brandt** became first time grandmothers on the very same day last May – a baby boy born to Sharon's son, Chip, and a little girl for Mary Nell by daughter, Cate. Sharon's daughter, Lindy, is the director of artists for the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition in Charleston, SC. Sharon loves to visit, and now when she goes she gets to babysit baby Jackson since they live in Charleston, too. Sharon reports that **Caroline Wrigley Schroder's** son recently married the daughter of Genie Cox Mann '71 in Charleston, SC. It was a mini reunion of Converse gals – **Judy Bell Oliphant, Mercer Taylor Jones, Flora Mellen Woodward, Rosie Bingham Blackburn** and Mary Nell Brandt were all there from our class! Sharon recently visited with **Susan Kennedy Brown** in Linville, NC. Susan's husband, Ronnie, has published a book about bio-identical hormones, **The Youth Effect**. Impressive! Sharon continues to sell real estate in Winston-Salem. **Emily Jones Rushing** and husband Hugh have recently returned from a wonderful 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary trip to Italy. She said they saw lots of college students and it reminded her of days gone by- that wonderful London trip of '71. That is, to this day, still one of the highlights of my life! I continue to teach little first graders here in Spartanburg. I, too, became a grandmother this year to Lillian, daughter of Cecilia and Troy. There is nothing like it! Son, Bryan, is in Charleston and will be starting graduate school in January. **Anne Osborne Long** recently dined with Cathy Inabnit '68 and President Betsy Fleming when they were in Charleston, SC. Anne stays busy traveling the country keeping tabs on all her children at their various schools, but she still manages to "tee it up" a good bit of the time too! Thanks for writing, Sharon, Anne and Emily. Hope to hear from more of you next time. **Peggy Kelly Lancaster**

## CLASS OF 1974

35<sup>th</sup> Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2009

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I am writing to encourage all of the Class of 1974 to make plans to attend our reunion April 24-25, 2009. I can't believe it is our 35<sup>th</sup>! For those of you who have not been back to Converse in the past couple of years, you are in for a real treat. The campus is absolutely fabulous. The Montgomery Student Center has been completely renovated and Kuhn Hall is under going renovation this year. The Phifer Science Hall is state of the art and even the Cabin has been restored. I also want to remind everyone how important it is to give to the Converse Annual Fund. It doesn't matter the amount of your gift, but your participation is crucial. Converse receives grants and other funding depending on the percentage of alumnae giving, so every donation is important. We also want to "beat" the other reunioning classes by having the most participation and highest amount of giving. I look forward to seeing everyone in April! **Grazier Connors Rhea**

## CLASS OF 1975

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2010

Representative:

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Converse College hosted its first "FREE" Electronic Recycling event on October 18. The event was open to the public in order to dispose of old electronic equipment properly. The company Technical Knock Out, (**Elise Warren is vice-president**), came to recycle computer components, hard drives, monitors, keyboards/mice, cables/wiring, power supplies, printers/copiers, fax machines, telephones/cell phones, scanners, battery back-ups, printer cartridges and any metal (shelving, file cabinets). The event was a big success. **Mary Alice Timberlake King** has finished her second masters track and is now working as a school psychologist II. **Nancy Orders Smith** and Mike hosted the Greenville Area Alumnae Event on September 30. Over eighty alumnae and guests attended and a great time was had by all. **Laura Bingham Ritch** joined the Alumnae Board in April. Everyone on the Alumnae Board has enjoyed getting to know Laura's daughter Mary-Sydney, who is a senior at Converse this year.

## CLASS OF 1976

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2011

Representatives:

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Christi von Lehe Sellars

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I hope everyone has enjoyed the holidays. I heard from **Louisa Amis**. She and son, Rob, have been living in Redlands, CA, for the last two and a half years. Rob has just begun the fourth grade and Louisa is working as a research assistant in a cancer research laboratory at Loma Linda University. **Rachel Jackson Gandy** keeps up with **Janny Rawls DeLoache**, whose son, Thomas, is a freshman at Wofford this year. She says that she runs into **Cindy Bell DesChamps** a lot at one of her favorite restaurants. Her mother-in-law passed away in June and she has recently had to get some help with her parents. Needless to say, most of her time has been spent with family. I have been in touch with **Jeannie Nissen King**. She is in the process of college hunting with husband Wayne, and son, Davis. She also came to my rescue this fall. At the end of August, my daughter, Katie, got accepted to USC graduate school in the CRNA (nurse anesthetist) program- starting January 5<sup>th</sup>. To add to the excitement of moving, selling a condo and starting school, she and her beau decided to get married two days after Christmas in Charleston, SC. We've had an extremely busy fall, to say the least!! **May Dowling Peach** has been accepted as a professional member in the Independent Education Consultants Association. Thanks to those who have been in touch. I'd love to hear from more, so send me a card with your news!! Happy 2009!! **Christi von Lehe Sellars**

## CLASS OF 1977

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2012

Representatives:

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**Katherine King** sends greetings from the San Francisco Bay Area! She is still working as a certified nurse-midwife for Kaiser Permanente and loving it. She suspects she's delivered over 3000 babies. Her son Collier is living in Chattanooga and working for Raymond James as a bio-med financial analyst. Youngest son Hamilton is living in the Bay area and pursuing his dream of being **CLASSNOTES**

a paramedic mountain search and rescue as he wants to live in Montana and live on the slopes! Kat's husband runs a non-profit that does CME in five specialties including Ob-Gyn! Their latest travels were a seven day Greek Isles cruise that went thru Greece and Croatia, along with a week in Paris and three days in Venice. **Rhondy Valdes Huff** writes that several tried to have a little mini-reunion in September, but a possible Hanna made them change their plans. In June, **Josie Rudolph Stokes** daughter, Sally, was married on top of their boat house on Lake Lure with a reception in Flat Rock, NC. **Marguerite Callahan** and Rhondy were there so they all had a good visit. **Mary Jane Simmons Candler**, Cindy Williams Peper, Katherine Calloway Patterson and Rhondy all have daughters that started at Wofford this fall. Rhondy is volunteering with the Preservation Society of Charleston and Life Management Center here in Charleston, SC. Joe is 16 and a sophomore at Porter-Gaud. **Jean Parks Bunch** writes that Ansel Jr. is working in Columbia, SC and Parks is serving in Iraq. Hopefully, he will be home by Christmas. Richard is a sophomore at Wofford. **Leslie Scoles Provence's** son Hall is a senior at Clemson and hopefully heading to law school in the fall. He was an intern for David Wilkins, the US Ambassador to Canada in Ottawa, and loved it. Elizabeth is the development coordinator for the SC Governor's School for the Arts Foundation here in Greenville and is getting married in January. Leslie still enjoys running her gift shops and writing for TALK Greenville magazine. Hall is retired. They had a great trip with Leslie's father to England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

## CLASS OF 1978

### Next Reunion

**Alumnae Weekend, 2013**

### Representatives:

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**Sarena Dickerson Burch** is a senior vice president in charge of Fuel Procurement and Asset Management for SCANA Services, Inc. **Harriet Smith O'Neill** sits on the Texas Supreme Court as a Chief Justice. Last year Harriet spearheaded the creation of the Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth & Families in Texas, which is focused on issues concerning child protection and foster care. Harriet has recently gone on the Board of Trustees for Converse and has enjoyed reconnecting with Jane Boatwright Schwab '77. **Martha Bywater**, **Jane Taylor Lassiter**, **Blanche Gramling Weathers**, **Julia Webb Davis**, **Lib Laney Peebles** and **Lee Ullman Hutson** spent a fabulous weekend together at **Cathy Propst Bourne's** home at Pawley's Island, SC. **Barbara Duffy Feemster** is working as a ministry assistant at Savannah Christian East. **Marian Potts Foster** lives around the corner from Barbara on Skidaway Island. **Julie Gaw Armstrong** went to Israel last fall with a group that included **Kathy Graham Davis**. **Peggy Seals Sansbury's** youngest daughter Margaret Ann was married on August 2. **Page Morton** ran into **Suzanne Hughes Sullivan** at an Atlanta Girls School fundraiser. **Melinda Benson** is the assistant principal/special education coordinator at Bridgewater Academy Charter School, in Myrtle Beach, SC. **Julie Purcell Thompson** is an interior decorator in Lexington, SC. **Susan Poston Shirley** still works for the State Treasurer although she has "retired" many times. **Grace Cobb Harrell** works for a furniture design company in High Point, NC. Susan, **Lucy Carter Ault** and **Regina Graham Love** spent the weekend with Grace at her lake house in NC. Lucy, Susan and Grace and their husbands met at Litchfield Beach, SC back in July and ran into **Lyn Farmer Smeal** and her husband John who live in Gastonia, NC. **Alice Denman Grier**, husband Riley and son Morgan still live in Charlotte, NC. Her son, Christopher,

is in Wilmington, NC attending UNC as a sophomore. **Deirdre Perot Jones** is a "cowgirl" living on her ranch "Neverest" in western North Carolina. Susan had a call from **Libby Pennell Lowndes** as she was driving through Columbia to Dataw Island. Libby's daughter, Elizabeth '08, is pursuing her MBA at USC. **Linda Saunders** runs a busy medical practice in Augusta.

## CLASS OF 1979

### 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion

**Alumnae Weekend, 2009**

### Representatives:

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Greetings from Camden, SC. Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend our 30th (!!!) Class Reunion on the weekend of April 24-25, 2009. There is a lot of catching up to do after 30 years! **Jeanne Jackson Mize** and her family were island hopping this summer in the Bahamas with son, Charlie, a licensed captain, at the helm. Oldest son, Joseph, is now working in Minnesota, and is making spring wedding plans. Youngest son, Wes, is a sophomore at Virginia Tech. **Nancy Boatwright Holt** and her sister, Jane Boatwright Schwab '77, whisked Claire Holt off to New York City to celebrate her 16th birthday with a "Wicked" experience on Broadway, and shopping, shopping, shopping! Nancy and **Val Powell Cranford** organized a mini reunion at Lake Martin in Opelika, AL where too much fun was had by **Lura Lee Burson Sowa**, **Judy Henderson Avent**, **Julie Kenan Willcox**, **Betty Barrett Robertson**, **Marlene Partlow Willings**, **Rebecca Poston Bomar** and **Nancy Craig Marbury**. Ladies, this mini reunion was a practice run and warm up to

## ALUMNAE EVENTS



October 2, 2008

Greenwood, SC cocktail party in the home of Christy and Jay Nexsen, parents of Kincaid Nixon '08.

October 16, 2008

Atlanta, GA cocktail party in the home of Paul and Debbie Christiansen Anderson '77 co-hosted with Gay Simmons Colyer '73 and Mary Helen Garrison Dalton '46.

our 30th in April, and does not excuse your fun selves from attending! **Margaret Horne Darr** is still teaching first grade at Pine Street Elementary and husband Ken is still working too hard! Their three children are busy; daughter Rebecca is in the speech pathology graduate program at USC and rooms with her brother Kirk who is working and attending USC; son Andrew is a sophomore at Clemson but is recovering from an injury to his foot. Andy and **Lelia Freeman Byars'** son Roper was deployed to Iraq in September, and at this point things seem quiet over there. Their daughter Beth got married in December, and their son Jimmy is in his second year in the law program at Wake Forest. Please pack your bags, your photos and your stories, and meet us on campus in April 2009!

## CLASS OF 1980

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2010

Representatives:

Laura Correll

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**Alison Culp Cookson** had lunch with **Lisa Royster Carstarphen** to celebrate her 50th birthday. **Sissie Taylor Hensley** reports daughter Lucy, accepted to Georgia Tech, is a Presidential Scholar semifinalist. **Tracy Moore Pharo** and husband are building a house on Lake Mitchell in Alabama. Tracy's still with Children's Hospital of Alabama heading the Children's Miracle Network fundraising. **Cathy Beeler Hilf** is a paralegal in Jacksonville, FL. **Susan Sieweke Weathers** and Jim (in Charleston) are both involved in church ministries. Sons Cameron, Jordan and Philip range from high school through college and beyond. They met up with Jim and **Holly Holstein Caprell** in July for lunch. **Betsy Gant Wittenmyer** survived Hurricane Ike and wrote that John Jr. is a sophomore at the University of Texas, Margaret is a high school senior applying to colleges and Anna is in 8th grade. Betsy works part-time for husband John's law firm. **Allie Patterson Walker** and Richard are empty nesters. Lawson is a freshman at Sewanee; Allie graduated from Wake Forest and works for National Geographic in Washington, DC and lives with her twin sister Elliott, a graduate of Washington and Lee. **Melanie MacMillan Glenn** hosted a fabulous 50th birthday celebration at her plantation with **Wardie Coward Sanders**, Ruth Powell Seitz, **Trina Thorne Carter**, Debbie Childress, Lisa Carstarphen, Miff Key Cone, Ceil Stewart Bone, Sallie Turner Martin, Sissy Swann Ivey, Margaret Capers Spratlin and Laura Satterwhite Hodge. **Robin Donner Dillard**'s daughter Anna is a freshman at Columbia

College and son Jon graduated from Coastal Carolina and will be married in Florence, SC in June. **Dorothy Cherry Accurso** is in Gastonia, NC working for Fidelity Associates, Inc. Her sons are at LSU and in high school. **Lizz Topp Klammer**'s daughter Kate, a Converse senior, is engaged. Son Karl served four years in the Marines, two Iraq tours and is now in college. Lizz has been at St. John's Episcopal School in Dallas, TX for 13 years and travels with students to Costa Rica and Europe! **Ginny Williams Sanders**' daughter Lauren graduated from Alabama and is working in Texas. Wesley is a college sophomore and Will is a high school junior.

## CLASS OF 1981

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2011

Representatives:

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Hi Devils! The big news is we are all turning 50. **Leslie Townsend Cottrell** and **Nancy Zumstein Becker** and families celebrated **Sally Walker Crenshaw's** birthday in Birmingham, NC. Nancy is practicing pediatrics; her husband Mike is a structural engineer, whose leisure past time is designing their home to build in the near future. **Martha's** family enjoyed seeing Leslie and family this summer when they came through Columbia, SC on a college tour with daughters, Lara and Georgia. **Cindy Rush Magrath's** oldest son, George got married this summer in Mt. Pleasant, SC. **Linda Frierson Perrow** and husband, Drake, attended the wedding and enjoyed seeing Cindy and family. Linda, **Donna Broyles Glazer**, Lanie and Martha meet for lunch about every other month. They spend most of the time comparing notes on raising teenagers. **Edith Hopkins Collins** is president of Benefit Alternatives in Roswell, Georgia. Edith also spends quite a bit of time as a sailing judge and was recently featured in an episode of GA Public TV's "Georgia Outdoors". Edith and husband, Jim, are planning a sailing trip in honor of their 50<sup>th</sup> birthdays. **Nedra Stimpson Crosby** and husband, Bob, live in Greenville, Alabama and have three children, a son at Alabama and a son in 11<sup>th</sup> grade and a daughter in 7<sup>th</sup>. Nedra recently ran into **Jewel Harris Quiner** who was passing through Greenville on her way to the beach. **Susan Halligan Patterson**, husband Mark, and three sons (17, 14 and 12) live in Northern Virginia. Susan stays busy with lacrosse, basketball, and boy scouts. **Gay Parks Dilz** and husband, Jimmy, live in Atlanta. Their daughter, Carolyn, is a freshman at UGA and son, Jimmy, is a high school sophomore. Gay ran into Sally Turner

Martin ('80) and her son at freshmen orientation. **Terry Alexander** has two children, a 15-year-old Pug, Sweetie, and a Puggle puppy, Betsy. Terry and Betsy are attending remedial obedience school in Wilmington. Martha is adjusting to having a half empty nest with one son at Furman and one still in high school. Lanie is busy with her teen and preteen. We love hearing from you so please keep the news coming.

## CLASS OF 1982

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2012

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**Lan Nguyen Shortt** and family live in Houston, TX where she is a partner in a law firm. Lan sees **Dr. Jane Hoyt Leidlein**, as well as Betsy Gant Wittemeyer '80. She saw **Becki Rand Barnett** and family, who live in Tusnia, while they were vacationing in the US. After teaching music in Williston, SC for 23 years, **Denna Roseman Sessions** has taken the music position at St. Helena Elementary, Beaufort, SC. **Liz Lewis Schellingerhoudt** has a daughter, 14, and a son, 11. Liz is in her last year of seminary, with plans to be ordained in the Episcopal Church as a transitional deacon in December and a priest after graduation in the spring. **LaMurl Turk Morris**' daughter is a sophomore at Valdosta State University, and son Tyler, a high school senior, plays football. LaMurl took her high school chorus to New York to sing in Carnegie Hall and made her fourth mission trip to Tanzania, Africa where she conducted teachers' training, worked with children through their sister church and worked with two orphanages. **Linda Larkin Blackwell** is an elementary school principal in Lancaster, SC, where husband, David, is an attorney. Their son, Reese, a senior at Presbyterian College, is majoring in business and Spanish. Daughter, Larkin, a high school senior, plays travel and varsity soccer. **Kimberly Branan Rooker** saw **Elizabeth Williams Grayson** sing the lead role of Gwenevere in the opera production of "Camelot." Elizabeth has been singing on the east coast from New York to North Carolina, as well as operatic stages in Italy. Her husband, a chef, owns several restaurants in the Raleigh-Durham area, and they have two daughters. **Anne Richardson Seabrook**'s son, Richard, is a freshman at Wofford, joining his brother Nelson who is a senior. Living in Rock Hill, SC, **Beth Cunningham Gault** is enjoying the interior design business.

## CLASSNOTES

## CLASS OF 1983

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2013

Representatives:

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I was so excited to hear from **Jodi Frances Obeid** who, after 23 years, took a buyout from her Duke Energy job, and lived in Doha, Qatar for a year. Her husband, Nihad, built the IT department for a new Islamic Bank and the children attended the American School there. They also found time to travel to Greece and Turkey while living in Qatar. They are now back in Huntersville, NC, where daughter Sarah (16) runs cross country for her high school, and son, Joseph (11) is also involved in running. **Margie Heggie** and husband David Estefano are keeping busy with son, David Shand (41/2). Does anyone have a child younger than Margie's? Margie is the COO of the SC Medical Association and David works for Wells Fargo Mortgage. They have moved in to care for her mother and handicapped sister, Janie, in Columbia, SC. She stays in touch with **Kappy Derrick Cannon**. I constantly E-mail my "old roomie," **Meg Floyd Schwartz** to help me remember people and places. I am not sure how she manages to keep me straight when she stays busy with twin girls Maggie and Page (15), and her programming job in Columbia, SC. **Cheryl Kirby Walter** and I have commiserated over our children going to college. Her son, Ben is a freshman at USC, but she still has her daughter, Grace (16) at home for a little longer. I know there are more of you out there with kids going to college. Let me know where they are attending; remember that was us 25 years ago! Our daughter, Anna's Clemson roommate is Amy, the daughter of Karen Abele Devore '84. Hamp and I are staying busy traveling and working, but I love hearing from all of you, so keep me in touch. I have my E-mail on all day at work, so if that is the easiest way for you to keep in touch, please feel free to E-mail me or Barbara, we also accept snail mail. Love to all, **Lou Pittman Lindsey**

## CLASS OF 1984

25th Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2009

Representatives:

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The Reunion Committee, **Jody Cole, Mary Witherspoon, Teri Temple Kirkland** and **Courtenay Collins**, is busy planning fun things to do. Spoon is working on an endowment in honor of **Liz White Calvert**; Jody, Teri and Courtenay are working on the fun activities. We need your assistance getting as many classmates there. Of course, not everyone will be able to attend, but we want to see as many of you as we possibly can. By the time you receive this you will have received a phone call from me, assuming I have a number for you. I want to make sure each and every one of you gets a personal invitation to attend our 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion. We are going to have an unforgettable reunion on April 24 and 25<sup>th</sup>. Classmate news: **Ann Albrecht Pressey** lives in Winterville, GA. Ann works with her husband at their wholesale plant nursery, they have two children. **Ann Wilson Gambill** lives in Augusta, GA and is the department administrator for the Institute of Molecular Medicine and Genetics at the Medical College of Georgia. **Audrey Watkins Fryer** lives in Evans, GA. Audrey is retired and runs the golf course "Golf De L" in Augusta, GA. She volunteers at the Humane Society. **Bonnie Hoyt Lynch** lives in Columbia, SC with her husband and two sons, Stephen and William. **Cara Lynn Desern Cannon** lives in Spartanburg, SC. Cara Lynn volunteers as the head of the district wide Summer Reading Program and does "FUN"raisers for non-profits. She has offered to have a cocktail party at her house for the reunion; I think we should take her up on it!!! Have you joined the Class of 1984 on Classmates.com or on Facebook? Get with it girls, that's the place to stay connected!!! See y'all at the reunion. Contact Jody or Spoon if you have any questions about the reunion. We are looking very forward to seeing you April 24-25. Lots of love, Jody

## CLASS OF 1985

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2010

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**Claire Efird** stays busy with her business, The Salt Shaker Bookstore and Café. **Annie Gray** stays busy with her social work assisting the needy. Annie ran into **Tammy Chapman** and reports that Tammy is dealing with the loss of both of her parents and deciding what to do with her family home in Hartsville, SC. As I write this, **Marsha Cubbage Somheil**'s daughter, Mary Margaret, is recovering from surgery at Duke and our class has been amazing to uphold this family in prayer. Thank you for your response to care for them. Marsha's son is at the Citadel. **Lici (Alicia Halfide) O'Connor** writes daughter,

Amari, is six and a first grader in the school where Lici teaches and Colby is 12. Lici's mom came to visit from Atlanta, GA in July and is staying with her at the time due to health issues. **Tammie Harvey Foster** attended both **Donna Southgate Woods**' wedding and Donna's daughter Nicole's wedding. **Missey Yergey Daly** was selected as the Ford Ironman Everyday Hero for 2008 at Ironman Florida on November 1, 2008. **Amy Salyers Ady** and Mark were in Spartanburg for the Wofford Fall Hospitality Day. Their oldest son, Matthew, is a junior in high school. They drove in and around the Converse campus. They were amazed at the changes that have taken place not only on both campuses but in Spartanburg as well!! **Susan Schrum Ladue** and her family are well. Collin, nine, plays baseball and Louise, seven, plays softball. Susan is a Brownie Leader and an 11 year cancer survivor. **Kelley Maloney Liggitt** saw **Ellen Lanford Asherman** and her boys at the beach and saw **Kelly McElroy White** in Winston Salem, NC- she loves retirement. **Suzanne Crosswell Short** has sold her house and is building a new one in Greenville. Kelley's kids are 11 and seven. **Tina Hardison Hammond** and Barry celebrated their 21<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary in November. Her daughter, Amanda is a 9<sup>th</sup> grader and plays the flute, like mom. Tina teaches a first grade inclusion classroom. Randy and **Krisila Newman Foster** took a cruise to Alaska this summer. It was breathtaking! God bless you all!

## CLASS OF 1986

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2011

Representatives:

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**Anna White Pollock** visited **Allison Hunnicutt Hauser** and her husband,Ted, in October in Jacksonville, FL. Anna lives in Denver, CO with husband Doug and daughter Sophie. Allison is a partner in her law firm and Anna recently became an independent consultant for CAbi (direct sales clothing company). **Laura Jennings Schulman**'s son, Ryan, is a 9th grader attending Woodberry Forest in Orange, VA, (male boarding school). The school was founded in 1889 so the architecture looks similar to Converse's, so Laura's ready to move on campus to revisit her great college days. **Betsy Mamouides Hockaday** and husband, Ben, enjoyed a wonderful three-day cruise in October. Her niece is a freshman at Converse, lives in Morris Dorm, and is a vocal performance major. Betsy teaches group fitness in Cary, NC and really loves doing that work. **Anne Hampson Boatwright** completed a family vacations this summer at

Emerald Isle, NC and Black Mountain, NC. **Beth Lysinger LeMay** reports that **Anne Carley Blay** will be visiting her in San Francisco with her son, Cooper, over New Year's holiday. Beth and husband of 22 years, Ed, are treating daughters, Ashley-14 and Elizabeth-17 to a surprise trip to Paris for spring break. Beth finished the 60-mile Susan G Komen three-Day walk in San Francisco in September. (Beth: that's a very impressive accomplishment !) **Tamara Gleason Hanning, Sarah Shealy Smith, Ann Cullen Hancock Catington, Kathryn Donald Shook, Susan Wininger Tieszen, Brenda Barron Geier and Catherine Pittman Smith** converged on Tamara's family beach house in Panama City, FL early in October. Kathryn is starting to look at colleges for her 16 year old and went to St. John for spring break (having a great time and saying that it was gorgeous). **Libby Anne Kepley Inabinet** sends news that she and her husband of 20 years just completed a home repair project. She co-hosted a Starbucks gathering for incoming freshman and prospective students in the Columbia area. She's also been cheering for her son, Walker, playing football for the SC Gamecocks (#51).

## CLASS OF 1987

### Next Reunion

### Alumnae Weekend, 2012

#### Representatives:

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**Adele Penland Boyce** is "pharming" as she calls it at local retail drugstores in Spartanburg. She helped with the Woodruff, SC Relay for Life this past summer. Her daughter, Meredith, is in 6th grade and has **Cynthia Parris Edge** as one of her teachers. Meredith is on campus at Converse three days a week taking music and dance lessons. Adele often sees **Karen Wacker Hampton** in the music department and hears the "Pink Panther" song being taught by Karen. **Laura Chappell Bauknight** won a hotly contested spot on the Spartanburg School Board since the last newsletter was printed from our class. She enjoys going to her beach retreat at Edisto, SC as well as leading a ladies Bible class at Church of the Advent. **Wallis Crum Bond** is forging a new path for herself as she completes her masters in elementary education in Columbia, SC. **Martha Lynn Mercer Gaskins** is directing "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" for the Children's Community Theater in Andrews, SC. Her family took a summer trip to the Amish Country, Niagara Falls, the Adirondacks, Lake Champlain and Philadelphia. She also visited with **Rebekah Jennings Murphy, Sherrie Moss Board, Wallis, Peggy Hair Alford and Julie Norville** at the beach over the summer. **Mel Clyburn**

has had a change of venue from her job inside Washington, DC. She is living a slower pace life somewhere closer to Converse and if you want to know more, you better have top secret clearance. **Molly Levy Campbell** and Paul went to Chicago this summer to visit son Nick, who is a resident MD at the University of Chicago. While there, they shopped on the Miracle Mile, caught a Cubs game and visited the Lincoln Park Zoo. **Catherine Frick Eldridge, Barbara Councill Bonner** and Martha Lynn were able to attend the services for **Elizabeth Shelton Roddy**'s father in June. Brave **Teresa Gagnon Maino** had Anna Elizabeth while Rob and Marie had gone to The Citadel to visit Christopher for Parents' Day! Marie is a senior in high school, and Chris is glad to be back in Charleston, SC where he was born.

## CLASS OF 1988

### Next Reunion

### Alumnae Weekend, 2013

#### Representatives:

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Please E-mail Kristi and Alice with the news of 1988. We want to hear from you.

## CLASS OF 1989

### 20th Reunion

### Alumnae Weekend, 2009

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**Ivy L. Pope**

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I got a note from **Mary Pinson Sullivan** who had some time to write while she was in between courses she's taking for her EdD. She reports that she and her daughter, Sara, and husband Jamie, took a school trip to England and got to spend some time with her roommate, **Jennifer Harris Thomas** at her home in Corsam, Wiltshire, England! They had lots to catch up on since they hadn't seen each other in ten years! Then, at the end of the summer, Jennifer and her family, (husband Jeffrey, daughters Antonia (9) & Isabella (7), and son William, (4)), spent some time with her in the states. She says Jennifer's children and her children (Sara, a senior in high school, William (14) all got along famously. Mary is living in Baconton, GA. A month or two ago while leaving Publix, I had the pleasure of meeting **Angie Weatherred Halstead**'s new baby daughter, Sarah. She is too cute and has a head

full of dark hair. **Tania McDuffie** and I got to have a blast from the past evening last Saturday night! We attended a fundraiser for a little girl who has a brain tumor, and the band that was playing at the fundraiser was Rob and the Mob! Perhaps some of you remember them from your days at Clancy's? They played together for the first time since 1996. It was a great show and Tania and I thought they sounded great! Lastly, if you will recall in my last update, I had passed along the note from **Angie Williams Cash**, saying that we should all check out Facebook – and that it was a fun way to stay connected to our classmates. Well, she's right! I joined not too long after that, and I have "found" several of our classmates on that site. Try it, it's fun! Looking forward to seeing you all at our Class Reunion in April! Make plans now to attend.

## CLASS OF 1990

### Next Reunion

### Alumnae Weekend, 2010

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Hello Ladies! A mini Converse Reunion took place in Atlanta, GA on April 19 when **Claire Bramlett** became Claire Dehmer. Joining Claire on her big day was **Meridith Moorhead Venturella**, **Julie Hennecy**, **Lesa Underwood**, **Lynn Pettus Finkelstein**, **Rebecca Lesto Shunk**, **Mary McDaniel Ridgeway**, **Mary Kenyon Robards Jones**, **Winnie Brown King**, **Nan Farmer Bridges**, **Caroline West McDowell**, **Angela Johnson Moss** and **Laura Lochen Kirkley**...fun was had by all. Nan celebrated her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday in style and met her long-time idol Rick Springfield at a VIP backstage event! Always full of news, Mary reports **Page Huss Curlee** is doing mission work in Taiwan. Mary spent time with **Lisa Lyle Fields** this summer while their sons were at camp. Mary and husband, Stephen, headed to London for a vacation this summer while Rebecca and husband, Rick, headed to Ireland. We heard from **Libby Fletcher Duffy** who reports staying in touch with **Holle Boykin**...the two traveled to Greece last summer. Speaking of jet-setting, Lesa is on a two-week trip to China as this newsletter is being sent to Converse. **Sheri Starnes Balcerzak** and **Pam Moren Conner** got together over the summer. Sheri stays busy with her business and coaching cheerleading. **Deborah Stanford Harris** checks in from Raleigh, NC where she keeps busy with family, work and volunteering. Deborah, **Lila**

## CLASSNOTES

**Willingham Shirley, Nancy Phillips Coleman, Amy MacNutt Sharon and Brandy Belk Long** had a fun girl's weekend at Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. Lila's catering company "A Royal Affair" and daughter Barbara Jean keep her on the go. Nancy keeps busy with daughter, Hannah, and working as a director of admissions for a private school in Gainesville, FL. Amy and her husband, Michael, moved to Valdosta, GA and stay busy raising her two boys, Carter and Harrison, volunteering and running marathons. Deborah also reports **Karen Caton Granger** became a foster parent for two adorable children, Luke and Laura, and that **Kelley Collman** recently had her first baby. Lawson reports Mary Kenyon had a beautiful baby boy. Congrats Karen, Kelley and Mary Kenyon! Thanks for the updates ladies...keep them coming.

## CLASS OF 1991

### Next Reunion

### Alumnae Weekend, 2011

#### Representatives:

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At class notes due date time, I had just hosted several Connies at my house for the weekend of **Stacy Reese Joyce's** wedding in Atlanta, GA. Stacy was nothing less than stunning, but sparkled all the more because her Converse peeps were there!! **Tracy Williamson Dart** and her husband, Dan, flew in from Princeton, NJ. It was fun to hear some of Tracy's creative PTO ideas. Tracy is a fresh addition to the Converse Alumnae Board. **Sonya Harmeyer Marsden** flew in from the north as well. **Charlotte Page** has found the perfect balance to work with two life long loves, between the therapeutic horseback program in Brevard and part time back at RockBrook Camp. She and **Jenny Howard** are enjoying their new home just off Main Street. **Hannah Zoutewelle** breezed in from Charlotte, NC where she has a new job with onelittlebox.com – purses, and shoes and bags, oh, my!! **Debbie Moise, Mary Karl Kinard Boepple** and **Mindy Arbogast McBurney** represented Columbia, SC. Mindy loves catching up with folks who come in to shop at Talbot's. **Maria Macaulay Sellers** and **Elizabeth Wagstaff Middleton** picked up **Elizabeth Foster Meek** in Winder, on their way from Greenville, SC. **Beth McCrary Smith** came in for the day from Chattanooga, TN. The work of a doula kept **Molly Chappell McPhail** from getting there and seminary exams in VA kept **Julie Simonton** away as well. **Lucy Elliott Enniss** and her husband, Steve, made a move to Washington, DC in December. Her husband is the Eric Weinmann Librarian at Folger Shakespeare Library. **Dianne Prince Swann** completed her add-on endorsement from Mercer last summer and

is now pursuing her EdS in Teacher Leadership at Mercer. She will finish in July and then be ready for a break!!

## CLASS OF 1992

### Next Reunion

### Alumnae Weekend, 2012

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Hello Converse girls! I received a letter from **Susannah Gramling Hubbell** (in the actual mail! with a stamp!) Matthew (8) and Eads (2) are doing well. Matthew is in the same class at school with **Elizabeth Lesto Zadig**'s son Christian and **Rebie Mays Bland**'s son Kingsland. Susannah is still painting. She saw **Melissa Koger Watson** at a Citadel ballgame. Melissa has opened a new store called Spartina Cabinetry and Design Consultants, LLC ([spartinacabinetry.com](http://spartinacabinetry.com)). She and husband PJ live in Charleston, SC with son Jackson (8). **Eleanor LaBorde Morrison** wrote to say that she had visited with **Elizabeth Pressley O'Connell** and **Troy Blanton McCormick** at their 20th high school reunion. Both Troy and Elizabeth live in the Charlotte, NC area. Eleanor lives in Savannah, GA during the week, and they go to their farm in Yemessee, SC, on the weekends. Join me in imagining Eleanor, barefoot, scattering grain to the chickens scratching in the yard! But, alas, it is not that kind of farm. Eleanor rides her horse and husband Comer hunts and uses the tractor. **Ann Byrd Owen** is an events coordinator/executive assistant, and her husband owns his own business. **Catherine Taylor Marstellar** still lives in Lawrenceville, GA. Mary-Taylor (MT) is 13, and Lauren (Lolly) is 8. Catherine teaches Autism Resource, and husband Steve is a Cox Communications engineer. **Amanda Reaves Campbell** saw **Denise Powers Kalapsa** this fall. Deni, who lives in Summerville, SC, was in Columbia for a continuing education class. I just heard that **Ashley Burnside Brantley** opened a web store called SHINE ([shopshineonline.net](http://shopshineonline.net)) selling high-quality inspirational and spiritual home accents. **Sheila Clark Crossley** wrote to say her three older boys are spoiling baby Samantha Rae rotten! **Lisa Ramsey Deibel** and her husband saw **Jacqueline Caldwell Heider** last month. **Ashton Bozard** teaches at Lake Carolina Elementary School in Columbia, SC which won the National Blue Ribbon Award. **Gretchen Bishop** is still teaching in the First Steps program in Spartanburg. She visited **Camille Hernandez Velez** this summer. Cokie is teaching in the Dallas/Fort Worth, TX area. Lastly, let me say that Michael and I appreciate all of your support this past year. Thank you. Keep in touch!

## CLASS OF 1993

### Next Reunion

### Alumnae Weekend, 2013

#### Representatives:

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Join the Converse College Class of 1993 group on Facebook! **Mitzi Gibbons Smith** is living near Nashville, TN. She and her girls were extras in music videos - Phil Stacey's "If you didn't love Me" and Alan Jackson's "Small Town Southern Man". **Nicole Leffler Coltharp** lives in Nashville, TN and is married with three stepchildren and six dogs. **Maureen Zeff Dunn** is in Columbia, SC and is taking time off from practicing law to stay home with her children. **Laura Kennedy** lives in Kingstree, NC where she's a lead teacher for the SC Virtual Charter School. **Kay Sellers Carte** was married this fall at the Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, SC and is living in Conway, SC. **Cooper Chapman-Ball** was the matron of honor. **Laura Kate Jones** reports that **Gaby Sifter** and **Sutton Brown Stracke** came to visit for a weekend in Los Angeles, CA. Sutton is living in Laguna Beach with her family. **Lisa Dunson Stenner** is in Opelika, AL with her family. She's the Parish Associate at First Presbyterian Church in Auburn. **Helen McClain** lives in Marianna, AR and runs her own catering business, Fabulous Foods. She's enjoying life, playing golf and spending time with her nieces. **Candace Nichol** is in Asheville, NC and works as a medical device consultant for trauma patients. **Shannon Perdue-Atwell** is at ChildLaw Services, Inc. in Princeton, WV. She voted as a delegate to the WV Democratic Convention in June. **Jan Bridges** says she's had a challenging year with health issues. She and **Brooke McNeill Woods** are keeping in touch and Jan vacationed with **Kathy Toy Knowles** at Gulf Shores. **Jen Gary-Baker** is living in Monterey, CA with her family. **Cynthia Joyner Blakely**, who has a new baby boy, is in the process of moving to Columbia, SC. **Lovell McClung White** adopted a beautiful baby girl from China. **Leslie Fowler Benson** started her 13<sup>th</sup> year of teaching. Holle O'Kelley Kennerly moved to the outer-realm of Atlanta, GA to be closer to her husband's school. **Katherine Russell Sagedy** (KRS Interiors) and **Jane Manning Hyatt** met up with Holle in August. Jane Manning lives in San Francisco, CA and works in Sausalito.

# ALUMNAE EVENTS



October 19, 2008  
Converse Alumnae Family Day at Riverbanks Zoo and  
Gardens



November 17, 2008  
Winston-Salem, NC cocktail party hosted by Jenny DeArmon  
Orr '98 in the home of Glenn and Ruthlee Phillips Orr '62

## CLASS OF 1994

15th Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2009

Representatives:

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Are you anxious to hear all the exciting things members of the Class of 1994 are doing? So are we! Please let us hear from you. Don't forget to mark your calendars for our 15th Reunion this April! Make plans now to attend Converse on April 24 and 25.

## CLASS OF 1995

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2010

Representatives:

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Regina Pettit Ziliani

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The Class of 1995 now has a Facebook page (Converse College Class of 1995), so join us to

keep up with everyone's latest news. **Becka Hoehn Becker** is doing double duty with her twins, George and Elizabeth, who were born this summer. Another first time mom is **Michele Burns Fowler**, who welcomed Russell Aaron this year. **Shazia Choudry Hasan** is living in Pennsylvania and is trying to keep up with her new son, Amir, and older brother Adam, who just turned three. In addition, one more bouncing baby boy was born to classmate **Jamye Horres Hurteau** in June. She is living in Charleston, SC with husband, Jamie and daughter, Taylor. **Angie McCorkle Roberts** has had a busy year, after getting married in July 2007; she completed her masters of science in education this spring, and is currently assistant principal of an elementary school in Thomson, GA. **Melissa Henderson Pickens** is back on the old stomping ground taking a painting class at Converse and loving it! News from across the ocean, in England, **Ashley McCabe Mowat**, wrote to say her second book has been published, entitled, *Brilliant Activities for Stretching Gifted and Talented Children*. Congratulations, Ashley! Keep the good news coming and join us on Facebook!

## CLASS OF 1996

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2011

Representatives:

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**Anna Snow Cheek** has opened her own interior

design business in Anderson, SC. **Amy Shipman Elkins** and **Jennifer Minor Tuckwiller** visited this summer with their kids in Beaufort, SC. **Ellen Thompson Smith** made partner with Holt, Ney, Zatcoff and Wasserman in Atlanta, GA and is also mom to Elise (3) and Gabby (1). **Alicia Johnson Womick** began teaching pre-calculus and algebra I this year for Oakbrook Preparatory School after nine years with her previous job. **Elizabeth McLean Brown** and her husband Matthew spent Labor Day weekend with **Heidi Ruehl** in Montreat, NC. They joined **Amy Shipman Elkins**, her husband, and their son, Braedon, in Hendersonville, NC for dinner. **Heather Stead** is still working as a special education teacher in Columbia County outside Augusta, GA. Heather also keeps up with **Stephanie Nivens Penley**, who is doing well and enjoying her family. **Claire Marie Benedict Huff**'s brother-in-law is a freshman at Wofford this year. Her son William is three and her daughter Mary Claire is one. **Jill Rodgers Foster** is Claire Marie's daughter's godmother. **Kristin Johnson Welsh** is starting a continuing education program at Duke this fall in their documentary studies program to further her photography interests. Her daughter, Katherine, just turned four. Kristin is also looking forward to being matron of honor in her sister's (Julie Johnson '99) upcoming wedding. **Cindy Greene Goldsmith** had a wonderful summer enjoying her girls, Martha and Virginia. Her oldest, Martha, headed off to kindergarten this fall. **Mani Wallace Reed** relocated to Charlotte, NC this August with husband, Tyler, and children: Will, Charlie and Merritt. Your old Spartanburg buddies miss you, Mani! I received wonderful news from our humanitarian world-traveler, **Heather Deifell**, who is home from her year-long faith journey around the world. Heather travelled with her sister, Hope, to South Africa, Mozambique, Malawi, Madagascar, India, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, Vancouver-BC and

## CLASSNOTES

San Francisco. Visit her blog: <http://globalmissionproject.blogspot.com>. Heather says she is halfway through with her MA in Christian Leadership with a certificate in Urban Ministries. If you are not a member on Facebook, considering joining as a way to keep up with old Connies.

## CLASS OF 1997

### Next Reunion

### Alumnae Weekend, 2012

#### Representatives:

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**Donna Pallassino Evans and Heather Mathias Davis** met up this summer. Heather's boys, Chase, Mattox and Brady met Donna's daughter, McKenna, for the first time. Heather and **Jennifer Coggins Reese** met up in Gaffney, SC this summer. For the first time, Jennifer met Heather's youngest son, Brady and Heather met Jennifer's son, Ben. Jennifer is teaching five-year-old kindergarten at Boiling Springs Elementary School. **Shannon Gosnel Bishop** has a place set up on Facebook for Converse friends to visit and leave news. **Katharine Hebert's** is living in Mexico running her vacation home rental business. **Kathryn Newcomb** is in Dallas, TX. **Lori Bowles Pullen** is teaching third grade. **Amanda Messer** is working as a social worker with the Harnett County DSS in North Carolina. **Katie Doyle Proctor** was accredited as a La Leche League Leader earlier this year. She's been leading meetings and offering breastfeeding support via phone and E-mail. I saw **Katie Fort Smith** and met her son, William, at Riverbanks Zoo. She was recently in **Caroline Taylor Player's** wedding. **Kristin Bradshaw** is currently in Portland, OR. **Leslie Anderson Cline** is a professor of theater and speech at Southside Virginia Community College. **Emily Grady Fayssoux** is a staging specialist in Greenville, SC. **Hadley Rowland** is currently working part time as communications assistant at St. Columbia. **Missy Van Doren** is moving into a convent in DC to save money on rent while she continues to work on her PhD. **Margaret Ann Jackson**, living in Charleston, SC informed me that **Tania Hamati Wolfe** has married a Marine Corps officer and has started her own interior design business. The website is [www.taniawolfeinteriors.com](http://www.taniawolfeinteriors.com). **Kathryn Kennedy** is taking nights in the ER at Toumey Healthcare System by storm while making her way through nursing school. **Catherine Alexander Girard** enjoyed a lengthy trip abroad this fall. I caught up with **Sarah George Corley** early fall during a trip to Greenville, SC. She is

teaching preschool Spanish in Mount Pleasant, SC. **Lisa Spratlin Hoffmann** made a big move with her family out to the OC. They are enjoying the fun activities that California offers! **Keckley Fogle Mahaffey** and her family live in Charleston, SC. **Andrea Sparks** is busy writing her dissertation.

## CLASS OF 1998

### Next Reunion

### Alumnae Weekend, 2013

#### Representatives:

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**Betsy Pringle Unger, Angela Mills Greiner, Ginger Benton, Michelle Harris Dennis, Fran Jordan Sullivan, Laura Matthews Pappas and Kristi Hines Hagood** all attended Emily Smith Wilson's wedding back in January. Everyone had a great time seeing each other and catching up! **Christy Christian** loves Facebook and has been excited to get reacquainted with many of her Converse friends! She was also awarded the local Junior League's "Women to Watch" award. **Jenny Orr** passed the National Counselor Exam and spent part of the summer on a 16 day road trip covering 14 states & four time zones! **Lynsey Carmichael Bullington** is still working at First Presbyterian Church of Spartanburg teaching 4 year olds. Her son, Mills (2), loves being an older brother. **Ana Charalambakos** has begun work on a second graduate degree from Webster University in mental health counseling. She has also started playing the piano again. **Erin Rich Strickland** had a wonderful summer in Gent, Belgium, but is glad to be back home in Columbia, SC. **Alison Palmer Johnson** and her family have relocated from Columbia to Fort Mill, SC so her husband could be closer to work. **Olivia Thornton Charney** graduated from The New York School of Interior Design with 'Highest Honors' in May. She is excited to open her own design firm in Weston, CT. **Aubrey Newell Corcoran** and her family moved to Japan and will be there for the next few years. They are living on the island of Okinawa, and love the area. She is homeschooling her three kids and even finds time to study Japanese! Many Connies had a chance to reunite in Pensacola, FL at **Helen Walker Tolar's** June wedding. Matron of Honor was **Ann Gerber Hawkins**. Honorary Bridesmaids were Erin Rich Strickland, **Susan Pittman Parker**, Jenny Orr, and Jessica Eggiman '00. Other Connies in attendance included **Shannon Campbell Parsons, Brooke Champion Farmer, Stephanie Easterday Bartuch, Jennifer Reese Boyd, Erinn Cox, Kathryn Trawick Hendrix** and Lathrop Hart Mosley '96. Please make sure to check out the Life Events section.

## CLASS OF 1999

### 10th Reunion

### Alumnae Weekend, 2009

#### Representatives:

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I hope you are all looking forward to our Reunion weekend this coming April. More details to follow, but make plans now to attend. We have class pages on both Facebook ("Converse Class of '99 Go Red Devils") and on MySpace ([www.myspace.com/conversecollge1999class](http://www.myspace.com/conversecollge1999class)) so please check these out! You can join the pages, or simply view some class updates that we are posting there as well. If you have any trouble finding the pages, please E-mail **Beth Thompson** for help. **Marcie Vance Porter** is now a Certified Independent Public Finance Advisor (CIPFA) after passing the certification exam administered by the National Association for Independent Public Finance Advisors (NAIPFA). **Becca Roland Hyleman** and her family are preparing for their move to Guatemala for her husband's job. **Lee Bishop Snell** and her husband just bought a new house in Lexington, SC, and she has taken over as business manager for Jim's law practice there as well. **Sarah Farnaby** hosted a 4<sup>th</sup> of July party at her place in DC and was joined by **Nikki Maples Reynolds**, Marcie Vance Porter and **Alison Block**. Sarah had also met up with **Angel Gainey Eicher** at Emerald Isle, NC for a Memorial Weekend beach bash. **Jennifer Lovett Rackley, Beth Robbins Cooper** and **Shwetha Gupta** made a trip to Berlin, Germany together for Beth's performance with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus and the Berlin Philharmonic of Berlioz's Requiem. Beth's mom also joined them in Berlin and it was a week's worth of sight-seeing, music and German food! They're not the only ones who got to spend some time outside of the country. Last month I (Beth) took a fabulous cruise to the Western Caribbean and I got to see the Cayman Islands, Cozumel, Belize and Roatan Island! So, has anyone else been anywhere exciting or celebrated any new milestones lately? Please keep your class reps updated so we can include your news. Check out the Life Events sections for more news on our classmates, and I will see you all in April back in Spartanburg! – Beth

## CLASS OF 2000

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2010

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The Class of 2000 has been keeping busy! We hope that you enjoy the updates! **Jessica Tate** graduated with a master of arts in art education at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in October and is planning to return to California. **Dareth Alexander Kovaleski** is teaching 5th grade at Plain Elementary is working on a master's degree from Furman. She plans to graduate next summer. At **Elizabeth Moore Pearson's** wedding in April, honorary bridesmaids were **Caroline Brice King**, **Laura Phillips** and **Kari Killen**. Elizabeth is employed with Richland County School District One as an autism itinerant teacher. **Layne Smith** received her MAT in secondary social studies in 2003 and is teaching at Mayo High School in Darlington, SC. Layne married Alex Smith in August 2007. They live in Hamlet, NC. Converse bridesmaids for Kerri Tucker Powell's wedding in June were **Kelly Moore** and **Erin Patterson Joye**. Converse friends in attendance were **Kiley Rikard**, **Victoria Frady Adams**, **Angela Abrams Hazzard** and **Audrey Chavous Keith**. **Kelly Moore** is now teaching music at Fairforest Elementary School. **Stephanie Borick Grace** is residing in Holland, MI. Several ladies recently enjoyed a trip to the Turks & Caicos in July to celebrate their 30th birthdays. **Mary Kinsey Hicks Hyche**, **Allyson Lowder Sanders**, **Amy Baer Crabb**, **Laura Phillips**, **Jessica Eggemann**, **Britney Jeffords Greeson**, **Anne Jenkinson**, **Emily Clark Timon**, **Kari Killen** and **Meredith Sims** were in attendance. **Ashley Rogers Atchley** is attending Gardner-Webb University's School of Nursing and will graduate in May. It is always great to hear from each of you. Please be sure to keep us posted!

## CLASS OF 2001

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2011

Representatives:

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## CLASS OF 2002

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Alumnae Weekend, 2012

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**Kerri Olson** became a Flight Attendant for Northwest Airlines on June 5, 2008 and relocated to Seattle, WA. **Tiffany Thornton-Batterman** and Bret moved to Washington, DC, where Tiffany works for the Institute of International Education as the director of events for the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology—a new university in Saudi Arabia. **Anna Millikan** recently moved to Arlington, VA where she works in DC as an analyst for the IRS. We wish to express our sympathy to **Heather Watson** on the death of her maternal grandmother on October 3, 2008. Please see Life Events for other news on the Class of 2002.

## CLASS OF 2003

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2013

Representatives:

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Allison Turner Watson

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**Valerie Brock Naglich** is now traveling throughout southern Africa with her husband after a wedding attended by many Hades Ladies (**Chelsea Jaccard**, **Carrie Tucker**, **Fanchon Charnigo**, **Jessica Little Conklin**, **Melanie Brown**, **Kristi Faris Butler**, **Anna Steenerson**, **Cheryl Moore Cruickshank**, **Casey Addis '04**, **Maria Perry Allen** and **Katie Landon '02**). Our globetrotting Chelsea Jaccard recently moved to Iraqi Kurdistan (Northern Iraq). Cheryl Moore Cruickshank reports that she, Maria and Chelsea had a grand time together hiking, cruising past 26 glaciers in the Prince William Sound, and hanging out in Chickaloon. **Sara Meyer Sterley**, **Kelly Schulz** and **Brooke Lown** all attended the

wedding of **Erin Strickland McCutcheon** in October at the Summer Chapel on the campus of The Citadel in Charleston, SC. **Avery Tomlinson** earned her doctorate from the University of Georgia last May and is now working at Appalachian Animal Hospital in Ellijay, GA. **Jodi Arrowood Stepp** traveled with her husband and family to Walt Disney World and Washington, DC this summer. **Holly Gilmore Hayes** packed up her house, husband, and dog for a move to San Antonio, TX; she is currently adapting to life in a big city all while living next to Sea World! **Kate Ford** is living in Ely, MN and just finished her eighth summer working at the Northern Lakes Girl Scout Canoe Base. **Melissia Heatherly Brannen** recently landed a few grants for multicultural programs and was named to the Provost's Advisory Committee for Women's Issues at USC. **Melissia, Carla Nelson Martin**, **Megan Russell Bates**, **Nicole Giraudin Martinez**, **Lynn Dancho Wilkes** and **Alison Turner Watson** all had a great time staying together for the Reunion this past April. To those of you that missed the Reunion, we hope to see you at the next one in 2013. Until then, keep us posted!

## CLASS OF 2004

5th Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2009

Representatives:

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Quinn Burgin Saleby

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As the Class of 2004 approaches our 5th Reunion in April, we begin to reflect on the things that our class has accomplished in the past five years. It is amazing to think that we have been out in the "real world" for so long. Our class has taken what we were taught at Converse and been able to put it into real world applications. There have been those who have continued their education, others have started their career, while others have started families. We have a diverse group of women in the Class of 2004, each one as special and wonderful as the next. Here are just a few things that have recently been accomplished by our class. **Kate Carr** has been promoted to senior manager, retail services, fine gift, gourmet, resort, tabletop and select exhibitor programs at AmericasMart in Atlanta, GA. **Rachel Jones Brown** is living in Arkansas teaching art at Hope High School. There have been many marriages and births in

**CLASSNOTES**

# ALUMNAE EVENTS



November 18, 2008

Orangeburg, SC alumnae event in the home of George and Bess Wolfe Hill '48, co-hosted with Bob and Ruth Garvey Horger '73 and Johnny and Susan Dukes Webber '70

the past year as well, so please check the Life Events section as well. Even though we are all living in different places, doing different things, we will always share our times together at Converse. I am so proud to be a part of a class of such amazing women, who are adding so much to their communities. We will see you all April 24 and 25, 2009!

## CLASS OF 2005

### Next Reunion

### Alumnae Weekend, 2010

#### Representatives:

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Catherine Woodrum

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## CLASS OF 2006

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### Alumnae Weekend, 2011

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Melissa Meyer

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**Amanda Burgess** graduated in August with a MFA in creative writing from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Amanda works as a therapist at HopeREACH - a non-profit that provides ABA therapy to autistic children, and teaches dance at the Lawson Academy (formerly Pre-College).

**Brelan Riddle** will graduate with a BS in nursing in December 2008. **Mallory Beckett** is living in Greenville, SC and is active in several local organizations including The Downtown Symphony Club, PULSE and Kiwanis. She is currently serving as the 2008-2009 secretary for the Greenville Main Street Young Professionals Kiwanis Club and is continuing to work towards her masters degree in public administration from Clemson University. **Meredith Holzbach** will be graduating in May from the University of South Carolina (Columbia) with a masters in speech language pathology. She also has plans to get married the same month and move back to the Upstate. **Elizabeth Walker** moved to Greenville, SC and has started a new job with Target as an executive team leader. She is a member of several young professional organizations including the Downtown Symphony Club and PULSE. **Tracy Huskey**

**Eggleton** lives in Spartanburg, and began working for the Department of Social Services as a case manager in the Adult Protective Services unit in October of 2007. Tracy married Donald Eggleton June 21, 2008. **Melissa Meyer Hewitt** married Nick Hewitt in November 2007 and is an art teacher at Cowpens Middle School. She and her husband reside in Pauline, SC.

## CLASS OF 2007

### Next Reunion

### Alumnae Weekend, 2012

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## CLASS OF 2008

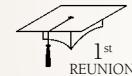
### 1<sup>st</sup> Reunion

### Alumnae Weekend, 2009

#### Representatives:

Elizabeth Martin

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Erin McGraw

21 Parks Avenue  
Newnan, GA 30263, 678-595-0809  
E-mail: erin.mcgraw02@gmail.com

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our FIRST reunion this April! Make plans now to attend at Converse on April 24 and 25.

## CLASSNOTES

# Cathy Goodman Tate '94

## Greenville, South Carolina



- Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master's in Education
- Taught kindergarten – 6th grade art for eight years
- Currently a stay-at-home mother to Emerson and a church volunteer

### Converse Accomplishments

- Dean's List
- Freshman Class Commissioner
- Student Activities Committee
  - Placed in Campus Juried Art Show
  - Admissions Counselor for Converse 1994-1995

### Why I Support My Alma Mater

"My husband Russell and I both believe in giving back to the places that helped shape us into the people we are today. He made the same type of lifelong friendships and connections at his alma mater that I did at Converse, so he totally supports giving to Converse. In fact, his company matches what we give. It is so important for us to remain involved and be a part of keeping Converse at the top of successful women's colleges."

**CONVERSE  
taught me  
to be an individual  
and to think  
creatively,  
to grow  
and expand  
my thoughts and ideas  
with confidence.**



### My Converse Experience

"Converse has influenced my career and family in many ways. Mainly, it taught me to be an individual and to think creatively, and to take criticism and use it to grow and expand my thoughts and ideas with confidence. I felt very prepared when applying and interviewing for jobs after graduating from Converse."

### Thoughts on Converse Today

"It excites me that Converse's time-honored traditions are still alive and well in an ever-changing world full of uncertainty for the future. Students are learning in new and improved facilities while benefitting from the same faculty/student relationships that cannot be matched at larger colleges and universities."

### A Giving Tradition

The tradition of giving to the Converse Annual Fund connects Converse women across generations. Join Cathy and Russell Tate in supporting Converse by making your gift today. Contact Allyson Tesh at (864) 596-9053 or [allyson.tesh@converse.edu](mailto:allyson.tesh@converse.edu).



580 East Main Street  
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29302  
[www.converse.edu](http://www.converse.edu)

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29301

## Upcoming Admissions Events

Music, Theatre and Art Scholarship Auditions

**Saturday, February 7, 2009**

**Saturday, February 28, 2009**

Dexter Edgar Converse Scholarship Competition

**Saturday, February 28, 2009**

(invitation only for seniors who are eligible)

Creative Minds Conference and Scholarship Day

**Saturday, February 21, 2009**

(open to seniors, visit [www.converse.edu/creativeminds](http://www.converse.edu/creativeminds) for information)

Spring Spectacular

**Saturday, April 11, 2009**

(for seniors who have been admitted to Converse)

Junior Day

**Saturday, May 9, 2009**

(open to all juniors)

For more information, call (800) 766-1125 or visit  
[www.converse.edu/admissions/preview\\_days.asp](http://www.converse.edu/admissions/preview_days.asp)  
(online registration).



### Voucher

Converse will assist prospective students with travel expenses by reimbursing gas or airfare (with receipts) up to \$200. Contact the Office of Admissions for details.

Campus Tours are available Monday – Friday at 10 AM and 2 PM and on Saturdays at 11 AM. Schedule a visit by calling (800) 766-1125 or E-mailing [admissions@converse.edu](mailto:admissions@converse.edu).