

Fall 2016

CONVERSE



The Power of
PEOPLE
AND **PLACE**



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE
FOR

*The Inauguration of Krista L. Newkirk
Tenth President of Converse College*

AND

A Thousand Thanks Donor Gala

FRIDAY, THE TWENTY FIRST OF APRIL
TWO THOUSAND AND SEVENTEEN

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON:
converse.edu/presidentialinauguration

A “Suite” Way to Cultivate Community

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Dear Converse Friends and Family,

Since joining Converse in July as your tenth president, my excitement about this institution's vibrant future has grown daily. I am continually inspired as I learn more about this special place and the people who are part of its past, present and future.

This issue of the *Converse Magazine* celebrates the many ways your passion, commitment and support drive this institution forward. I hope you will find this snapshot to be a helpful compass to guide our journey together.

I recently had the opportunity to participate in my first Converse move-in day as we welcomed 300 new students—the largest incoming class in 27 years. I was amazed by the more than 130 faculty members, staff, students, and alumnae who rallied to help our new students move their belongings and settle into their rooms. As I walked around and talked with students and families, I learned about their backgrounds and why they chose Converse. I felt their excitement about coming to college, and also witnessed some of the anxiety that comes with separation and change. In the midst of all the commotion was an overwhelming spirit of hope that the investment families are making in Converse will reap real rewards for these young women—by enriching their lives, developing them into experts in their fields, and helping them realize their individual goals. It was truly inspirational.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the near future, whether in your hometown at an alumnae event or here on campus. Come experience our cultural events, which are sure to inspire with the season's theme of "Bold. Brilliant. Beautiful." Cheer on our Valkyries at home or at an away game near you. And do not miss the first ever opportunity to relive your Converse days by staying in the residence halls during Reunion Weekend, which has a new summertime schedule of June 2-4, 2017!

It is a great honor to serve Converse College, and my family joins me in thanking you for the warm and enthusiastic welcome we have received!



Krista L. Newkirk
President



Meeting our **Mission**

The primary mission of Converse College, founded in 1889, is the liberal education of undergraduate women in a residential setting. Converse reaffirms the founders' original conviction that a small undergraduate residential college of the liberal arts is a uniquely powerful environment for developing the talents of women.

As a community of scholars, where students and faculty pursue excellence and collaborate in the search for truth, Converse develops in students scholarly excellence, personal honor, confidence, and skills to be life-long learners. The college draws much of its character from its Christian heritage and welcomes students of all faiths. Converse expands its mission by offering graduate degrees and other programs for women and men. Ultimately, graduates embody the qualities of a Converse education as they assume roles of leadership, service, and citizenship.





Core



Converse is guided by seven core values that extend across the institution and shape our actions and decisions.

Values

Excellence drives us to achieve the best in all that we pursue; to develop competence, confidence and courage to realize full potential in mind, body and spirit.

Integrity calls us to cultivate and exercise honor, character and vision in daily decisions and actions; to act honestly and justly when confronted with ethical dilemmas and life's challenges.

Exploration compels us to think critically and creatively in the acquisition of knowledge and skills; to discover and enrich scholarship and research, disciplines, methods and vocations through hands-on learning and leadership and through discovery, discourse and debate.

Diversity inspires us to embrace the different perspectives, experiences, cultures, backgrounds, talents and contributions that comprise a global society; to enhance and expand inclusivity as we build a stronger multi-dimensional community.

Respect leads us to value self and others, recognizing the legitimacy of individuality in belief, expression and perspective; to exercise civility, mindfulness and responsibility in words and actions.

Community motivates us to develop a dynamic network of relationships through a balance of work and play that nurtures the abilities of each member in order to establish a better whole; to mentor, collaborate and communicate as engaged citizens who effect positive change.

Progress challenges us to think strategically toward the future by employing creativity, adaptability, ingenuity and innovation; to advance and transform the world around us.

Showing our
Strength





Enrollment

- 1,389 Total Enrollment (822 undergraduate and 567 graduate)
- 30 states and 8 countries represented
- Approximately 20% minority undergraduate enrollment
- 12:1 Student-to-Faculty Ratio

Undergraduate Student Stats

- Half are involved in research or independent creative projects and $\frac{3}{4}$ are involved in service projects
- 93% of entering students have a GPA of 3.0 or higher, more than half rank in the top quarter of their graduating class
- 94% of graduates earn their degree in four years or less (3x the rate of their peers at public universities)
- 60% of the Class of 2016 had a job offer or graduate school acceptance in-hand the day they graduated

Recent Accolades

- 4 Fulbright Assistantships
- 2 Goldwater Scholarship finalists
- 2 University Innovation Fellows
- A John Jay Institute Fellow
- An Abreu (Sistema) Fellow
- A Goldman Sachs Rising Leader
- Presidential Management Fellows

Faculty Excellence

- 96% of full-time Converse faculty hold the terminal degree in their fields
- 82% of courses are taught by full-time faculty
- 3 South Carolina Professors of the Year since 2007 by the Carnegie Foundation and the Council for the Advancement of Support Education

NCAA Division II Athletics

- Only women's college in the nation competing at the NCAA Division II level
- Student-athletes in 12 sports comprise 22% of student body, with an overall GPA of 3.03



meet
KRISTA

TENTH PRESIDENT OF CONVERSE COLLEGE

As a 6-year-old ranch hand, Krista Newkirk helped install electrical outlets in the house her family built together, rode a feisty Appaloosa, and began raising her own beef cow — all before bankers foreclosed on their property.

Later, she worked 30 hours a week while earning her bachelor's degree in just three years. Then came law school, private practice and a Fortune 300 company. Next thing you know, she's an administrator at a large university where she built a reputation for gracefully fielding anything thrown her way.

Meet Converse College's tenth president, who, at 44, brings experiences as varied and improbable—and yet as fitting—as any the College has likely seen in its 126-year history.

NEWKIRK

“I love that her life story is one that our students can truly relate to in ways we never imagined when we sought a new role model for students on our campus.”



"I love that her life story is one that our students can truly relate to in ways we never imagined when we sought a new role model for students on our campus," says Board of Trustees Chair Kimberly Varnadoe Kent '97, whose term began the same day as Newkirk's: July 1.

Kent served on Converse's presidential search committee, whose 13 members unanimously selected Newkirk from among 18 candidates. A recruiting firm discovered Newkirk at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where she had been chief of staff for four years.

"We knew she could come in and carry on the momentum that Betsy Fleming started," Kent says. "We loved Krista. Her interview was incredible, her résumé was amazing, and she just knocked it out of the park from day one."

Newkirk's coming-of-age tale begins in Japan, Missouri, about 75 miles southwest of St. Louis, just off storied Route 66. The dot on the map is so remote its only school district, for grades K-8, has just 70 students. Clearly, the place still shapes who she is and brims with resonant memories.

Among her favorites is a \$700 Appaloosa named Doc—"he was really the ugliest horse!" She saved enough money to cover the purchase by sowing and hoeing in the family garden, at 25 cents per row.

"We get this horse home, and it would rear up and try to roll over on us," she says over coffee at Hub City Bookshop, where she wanted an interview setting more casual than her still-spare office. "And so every day, I would come down to breakfast—a tiny, little 6-year-old—and my dad would say, 'Are you gonna ride that horse today?' and I would say, 'I'm thinking about it, Dad, I'm thinking about it.'"



Finally, that inevitable day trotted in. "When Doc reared up with me on its back for the first time, I did the only thing I knew how to do. I let go of the reins, and I hit it on top of the head as hard as I could, and it dropped back down to all fours. Doc never did that again."

The youngest of three children and the only daughter, she still appreciates Doc's medicine for overcoming her fears, though she chuckles at a question about whether she ever administers the same management technique. "What I learned at a young age," she concedes, "was to overcome my fears, to get into that uncomfortable spot and to persevere through it."

At UNC Charlotte, where she served as first-ever chief of staff for Chancellor Philip Dubois, she did just that time and time again. Not long into her job, she was tasked with organizing a three-day visit from the University of North Carolina system's Board of Governors. It was the board's first large-scale meeting on the Charlotte campus since 1970, and Newkirk had to muster a 200-member team to handle the event.

Media flocked to the gathering. A student protest, which was not related to the college, was stirring things up. And six inches of snow blanketed the gathering's first day.

"Because of protests, she had to move the meeting, during the meeting, in order to allow the meeting to function," Chancellor Dubois recalls. "She had already put in place contingency plans, and she pulled it off. It was widely acknowledged to be the best, most effectively run meeting they'd ever had, in spite of the circumstances."

Newkirk, incidentally, also served on the search committee that selected Dubois. He is now in his 12th year and is clearly one of her biggest fans. "If you ever have a crisis, you have the right person."

“You can listen to her life story and know she’s going to roll up her sleeves and get busy. She’s even better than we thought she’d be.”

And let’s not forget her sense of humor. “Krista and I laughed a lot together, even though our two jobs were so difficult,” says Dubois.

He recounts how instrumental she was in starting the Pride of Niner Nation Marching Band. The university had launched its first NCAA football team and a marching band was required. Newkirk found herself in charge. She determined how much such a project would cost and how to pay for it, then managed construction of a building for practice space once the school discovered the first location was “too close to 2,600 sleeping students,” as Dubois points out, referring to nearby residence hall rooms. The band’s inaugural season in fall 2015 comprised 150 members from among the university’s 28,000 students.

“We had some challenges there,” he says of the multimillion-dollar program, which not only wasn’t in Newkirk’s official job description but doesn’t even appear on her curriculum vitae. “She has a great sense of humor. She understands that some things in higher education don’t move from A to B all the time, but she’s flexible and creative.”

When the invitation to apply for Converse’s presidency landed

in her inbox, Newkirk was preparing for a new leadership role with UNCC. She let the email sit for a couple of days. “I thought about it, I did some research on the college, and I was intrigued. Converse really called to me—to my passion for women’s issues, and for women having a voice and being empowered to become leaders. And I thought, okay, if I’m ever going to look at a presidency, I’d want to look at a place like Converse.”

Breanna Waldrop ’17, who gave Newkirk her first campus tour, says the first thing that struck her was that Newkirk had already read Dr. Jeffrey Willis’s 128-page history of Converse, published in 2001.

“It really impressed me that she took the time to do that,” says the 21-year-old art-history senior from Campobello, SC. “She seemed very poised, very confident, and I was impressed with some of the strides she’d made, especially hearing about her childhood, and putting herself through college. I think that really resonates with a lot of college students.”

As for the new president’s future, Waldrop is optimistic: “I think she’ll bring a new eye, a new voice to Converse. I know we were all worried about the president we would find for Converse because Converse is a unique community.”

Newkirk is definitely unique—after all, how many students seeded their college fund with a literal cash cow?

“My dad’s plan for us was that he would give each of us a cow, and we would sell their calves when it was time. Then we would put the money into savings, and that would go to help us buy our first car or whatever we needed when we went to college.” Her parents attended college but never graduated. The value of a higher education degree was impressed upon Newkirk when the ranch, with its 200 head of Hereford-Angus cattle, faced foreclosure.

“My father didn’t have a lot of alternatives open to him because he didn’t have a college degree, and my mother didn’t either. We lost the ranch, and my dad died of a stroke all in one year,” she recalls. “I saw how we were at the mercy of our environment because of the lack of education.

“I swore that I was never going to be in that situation, and so I decided, very young, that I would go to law school because it was going to be important for me to learn what I needed to know to protect myself and my family.”

Her family today includes her husband of 16 years, Lew Glenn, a Naval Academy grad and lawyer himself, and their sons, Conrad, 15, who attends Spartanburg High School, and Holden, 11, who is enrolled at Spartanburg Day School.





“My goal is to spend as much time as I can talking to individuals within the school; talking to alumnae and donors; talking to students, to gather those perspectives.”

For the first several weeks of her presidency, Newkirk lived in a student apartment in Wilson Hall. The guys came later with their dogs—Sayde, a golden doodle; Sasha, a rescue pup; and Cookie, a French bulldog/pug puppy—and their lizard, Scruffy. Glenn says he’s excited about moving into a home that hasn’t had children there for some 40 years.


“Converse is a place the boys and I can be part of,” says Glenn, who will continue practicing with his Charlotte firm. “UNC Charlotte is a big place, and it’s a great place—Krista has a lot of good friends there—but we lived a long way from campus. We weren’t really in a position to be part of the life of that campus, but here we can be. I think it’s more of a holistic job, it’s something that all of us can be involved in and be part of.”

He adds: “There are many things I admire about my wife. She is understated, yet charismatic. She has an enormous capacity for love and compassion. When she decides she’s going to do something, she’s all in. I know I’m lucky for that, but Converse is lucky, too. You can see it in the way she brings herself up to speed on things.”

That’s how she plans to work her way into a job whose previous nine officeholders presided for more than one-hundred-twenty-five years, collectively.

“Right now, I’m listening,” she says. “I have a lot to learn, and so my goal is to spend as much time as I can talking to individuals within the school; talking to alumnae and donors; talking to students, to gather all of those perspectives. I want to know what they think we’re doing well, what they think our opportunities are for improvement, what they want to see me work on, what they don’t want me to touch, and what their advice is.”

As Kent says, “You can listen to her life story and know she’s going to roll up her sleeves and get busy. She’s even better than we thought she’d be.”



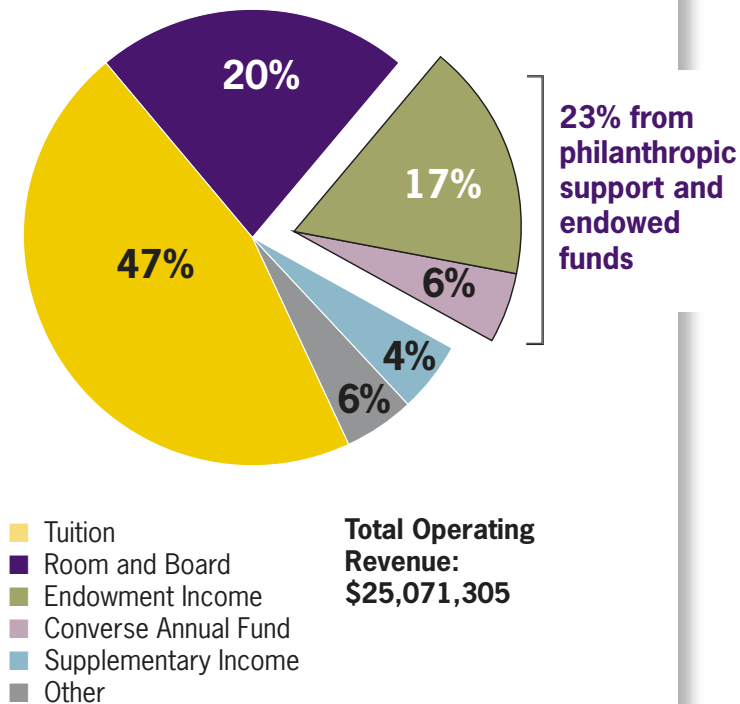
**CONVERSE IS COMMITTED
TO MAKING HIGHER EDUCATION
ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL
TALENTED YOUNG WOMEN.**

Together, we can achieve this goal!

GIVING MAKES IT POSSIBLE

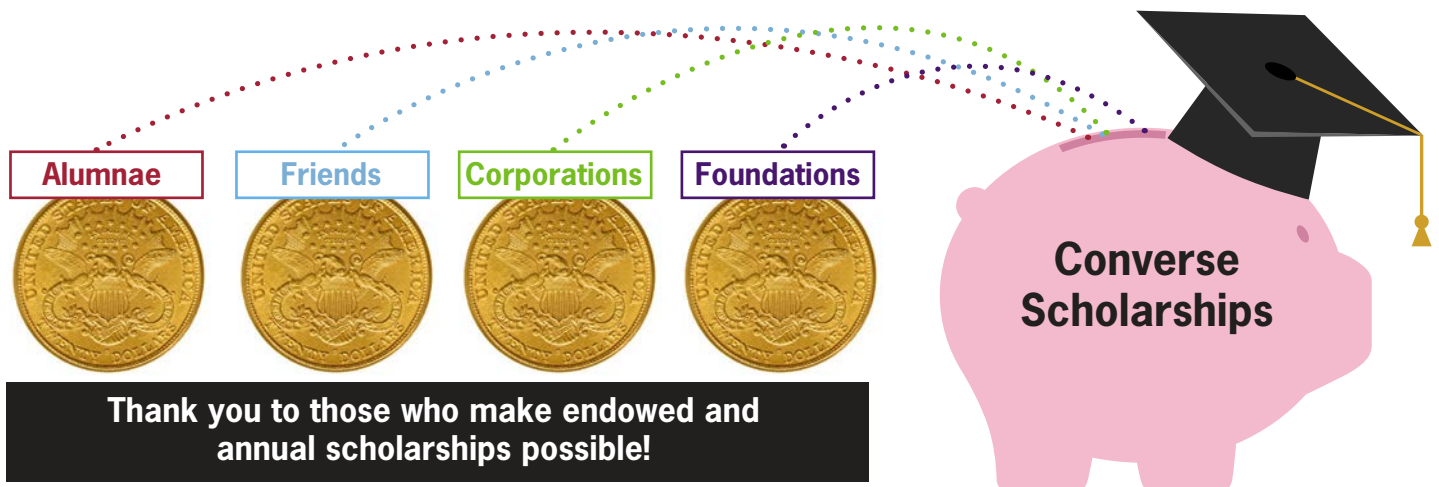
23% of Converse's operating revenue comes from those who invest in the College.

Sources of Operating Revenue



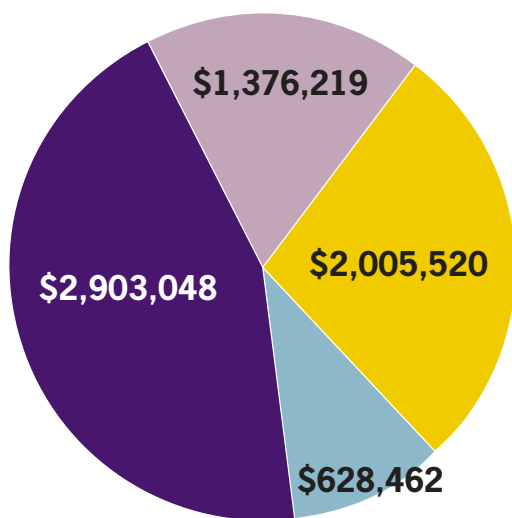
Annual and endowed scholarship gifts help students bridge the gap.

Our tuition reset in 2014 created a clear, affordable pricing structure that opens doors for new students every year. Your ongoing partnership is equally important to this success, as your gifts enable Converse to provide merit and need-based scholarships that bridge the gap for deserving students.



PHILANTHROPY PROPELS CONVERSE

2015-2016 Total Giving: \$6,913,249



■ Alumnae ■ Bequests/Trusts
■ Friends ■ Corporations/Foundations

In 2015, the National Institutes of Health awarded Converse \$626,000 for student and faculty biomedical research, supporting partnerships between Converse and other universities and expanding Converse's K-12 outreach.

2015-2016 Alumnae Giving Participation



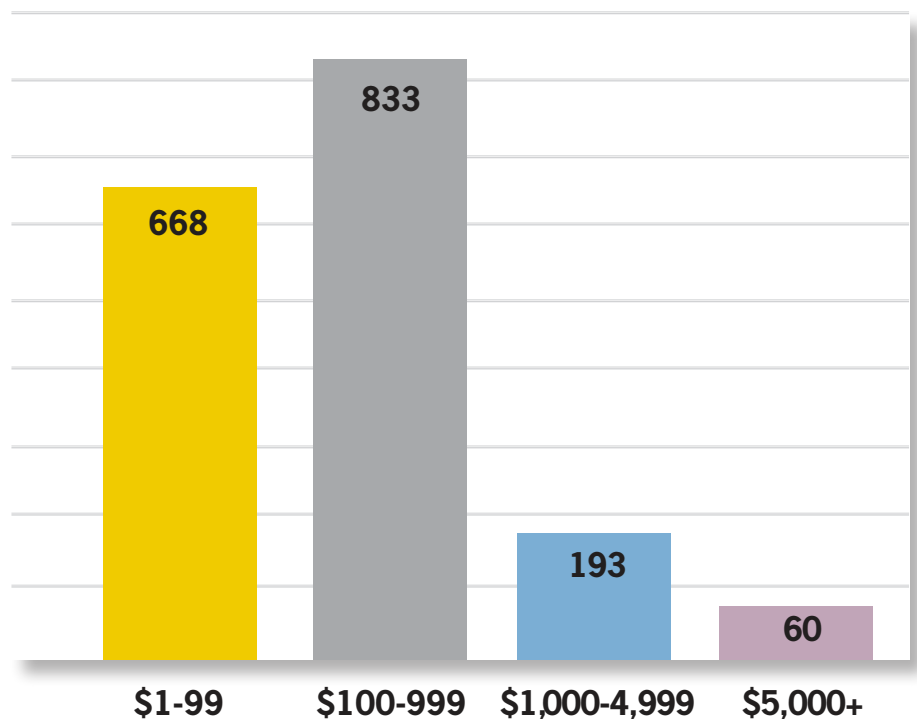


2015-2016 Converse Annual Fund (CAF)



Gifts at every level make a difference!

CAF Individual Gifts



THE POWER OF PARTICIPATION

Giving participation from every alumna, every year has the power to propel Converse far beyond the face value of each gift. Strong alumnae participation benefits Converse in several ways:

- There is strength in numbers – many gifts add up to a large sum each year.
- Foundations and corporations view strong alumnae support as an indicator of a healthy, strong institution worthy of additional investment.
- Major donors are compelled to give when they are joined by a high percentage of alumnae.
- Many college rankings factor in alumnae giving.



**200 Donors
Each Giving \$100**

\$20,000

Funds an entire year of Converse's Creativity, Community, and Cultural Enrichment Grants (C3), which stretch the boundaries of knowledge, human interaction, and cultural enrichment to benefit the Converse community – and beyond.



**30 Donors
Each Giving \$500**

\$15,000

Transforms a learning space into a “smart” classroom, meeting the dynamic needs of today’s digitally-savvy students with items such as an interactive projector or television, computer, audio system and document camera.



**150 Donors
Each Giving \$50**

\$7,500

Funds a faculty-mentored student research project that helps the student sharpen problem-solving skills, explore and prepare for future careers, and apply coursework to “real-life” situations while working collaboratively with a faculty member.

OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT

When you join in the “Power of Many,” your impact is truly transformative!



GIVING SOCIETIES

Converse College Giving Societies recognize the commitment of those who support Converse in various ways. From annual gifts that make an immediate impact to endowed and planned gifts that last for generations, your investments ensure a bright future for Converse and our students.

Lifetime Societies

Membership in a Lifetime Giving Society is Converse's most prestigious recognition for the generosity of donors. Individuals become members based on their cumulative giving over time.

- Wilson Society \$1,000,000+
- Pell Society \$500,000 – \$999,999
- Gwathmey Society \$250,000 – \$499,999
- Carmichael Society \$100,000 – \$249,999
- Coleman Society \$50,000 – \$99,999

The President's Circle

Named to invoke the inspired leadership and vision of Converse's presidents, the President's Circle recognizes donors who made gifts of \$5,000 or more during the fiscal year. The President's Circle recognizes five levels of giving:

- Chairman \$25,000+
- Trustee \$20,000 – \$24,999
- Fellow \$15,000 – \$19,999
- Scholar \$10,000 – \$14,999
- Colleague \$5,000 – \$9,999



The 1889 Society

Named for the year of our College's founding, the 1889 Society honors those who sustain the Founder's vision through gifts to Converse of \$1,889 – \$4,999 during a fiscal year.

The Leadership Society

The Leadership Society recognizes Converse donors who invest \$1,000 – \$1,888 during a fiscal year, helping Converse to empower students with the voice, value and vision to effect positive change in the world.

The Purple & Gold Society

Membership in the Purple and Gold Society is for loyal donors who have supported the Converse Annual Fund for three or more consecutive years, regardless of gift amount or designation. Converse needs every supporter, every year!

Help us reach our \$1.5 million Converse Annual Fund goal.
MAKE YOUR 2016-2017 GIFT TODAY!
www.converse.edu/give



A Kaleidoscope of *Giving*



Just as a kaleidoscope's beauty is formed by many shapes and colors, the dynamic Converse experience flourishes thanks to diverse gifts of time, talent and treasure.

Read on to meet some of the people who propelled Converse forward during our 2015-2016 academic year. Whether inspired by fond Converse memories and cherished lifelong relationships, or an ever-deepening appreciation for how Converse prepared them for life, each brings a unique sense of passion and purpose to their support of Converse College today.

Sharing the Gift of Converse

“My girlfriends are all Converse girls. We’re all successful, 100 percent of us, and it’s just an environment I trust.”



Fort Worth, Texas, is a long way from Spartanburg, but Converse is so close to Brandi Icard’s heart that she recruited a student there to find her voice at Converse, too.

Icard, 35, earned her master’s in music from Converse in 2004 before moving to Texas, where she taught high school and performed with the Fort Worth Opera Company for two years. There, she met the talented and determined Grace Frazor.

“I knew Grace was really serious about music, and I definitely wanted to recommend a place for voice instruction that I trust,” Icard said.

Today, Frazor is a Converse senior majoring in music theory and vocal performance. A dynamic addition to the Converse community, Frazor is involved in

organizations like Model Programs, Delta Omicron, Alpha Lambda Delta and Honor Board. Icard now lives Charlotte, NC, where she teaches voice and piano and even drops in occasionally to see Frazor’s recitals.

“I wanted to go to a bigger school,” Frazor, 21, admits. “Having a football team was really important to me.” But Icard persuaded her to call Converse. “They were super kind and considerate, and they seemed to personally care about me. I called another school—‘This isn’t the Music Department’—and they hung up on me.”

Icard still sings her alma mater’s praises to potential recruits. “My girlfriends are all Converse girls. We’re all successful, 100 percent of us, and it’s just an environment I trust.”



The Gift of Professional Opportunity

“For the graduate students, it’s indispensable, because if you think about having to find placement to have all those hours for direct client contact, there’s essentially nowhere that would allow you to do that.”

Just the thought of finding a job after graduation might lead some to seek counseling, but for Converse’s Marriage and Family Therapy graduates, getting a job as a therapist is a bit less stressful thanks to West Gate Family Therapy Institute and alumna Elizabeth Martin.

Martin earned her MMFT in 2010, after graduating in 2008 with a bachelor’s in art therapy and psychology. She went on to West Gate for the clinical training required for licensure, then became its first salaried executive director. Her dedication to supporting fellow Converse students led her to create a valuable pipeline for providing professional experience to others in the MMFT program.

Founded in 1980, West Gate last year served 1,500 clients through 12,000 hours of therapy. Converse

graduate students comprise most of the therapeutic staff; each must amass 1,500 hours of clinical training over two years. Up to four Converse interns are accepted each semester.

“For the graduate students, it’s indispensable, because if you think about having to find placement to have all those hours for direct client contact,” she says, “there’s essentially nowhere that would allow you to do that.”

Martin’s support for Converse is a shining example of how a diverse range of gifts — those of time, talent and treasure — combine to advance the lives of today’s Converse students.

A Half-Century of Unwaivering Support

“My experience is something I want to share with others and if I can do that by giving to the Annual Fund, then it’s worth supporting.”



Since her graduation in 1963, Dottie Myers McGirt has excelled in many arenas – as a teacher, t-ball and tennis coach, wine and kitchen shop owner, and community volunteer. Through it all, her appreciation for the opportunities Converse afforded her has deepened, compelling her to support the Converse Annual Fund every single year for more than half a century.

“I found a connection at Converse, a circle of like-minded women who will forever be called friends,” she explains. “My experience is something I want to share with others and if I can do that by giving to the Annual Fund, then it’s worth supporting.”

McGirt has remained connected through Converse alumnae events in North Carolina and enjoyed being back on campus for her 50th Reunion, but her most ardent focus is on supporting the young women who follow in her footsteps. Her loyalty to Converse makes a tangible difference to the College.

“Attending a women’s college provides many opportunities for women to grow as strong leaders,” McGirt says. “I believe in the College’s mission and I hope that by giving each year, I can continue to support single-gender education and the nurturing community that is Converse.”



Leaving the Ladder Down

**“I believe that your degree
is only as strong as your
institution.”**

Briana Bateman was a Converse junior when her father became ill. Her parents had to move to Charleston for his medical treatment, so Briana stayed in Landrum to care for her two younger brothers, while also working two jobs, playing Valkyries’ volleyball, and becoming Student Government Association president. In 2014, she earned her bachelor’s in art therapy and psychology.

Now 25 and constituent-services representative for U.S. Congressman Tim Scott in Columbia, she puts aside \$25 every month for her alma mater.

“I believe that your degree is only as strong as your institution,” she says, adding she wishes she could give more. “Converse is a family. It’s not like

a family, it is a family. I just feel that I have to give back for everything Converse did for me.”

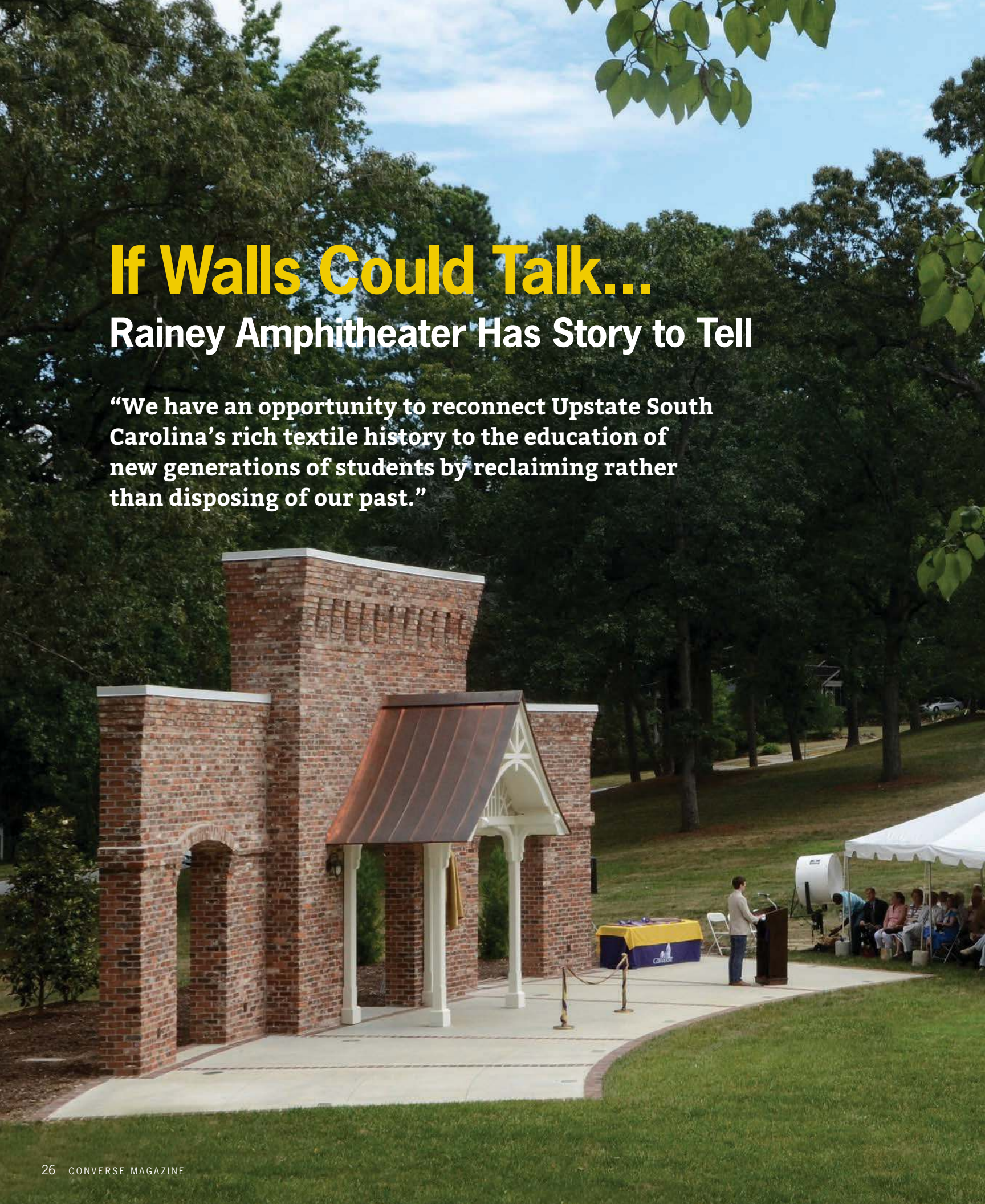
She lost her dad in December 2015. Now, she and her mom are discussing adding Converse to Briana’s will.

“On a scale of what a lot of bigger donors give, it may be a small amount, but to me, it’s investing in not just my future and what my degree means, but also for others—my Converse little sisters and my grand-littles. It’s the power of investment that will keep going.”

If Walls Could Talk...

Rainey Amphitheater Has Story to Tell

“We have an opportunity to reconnect Upstate South Carolina’s rich textile history to the education of new generations of students by reclaiming rather than disposing of our past.”





Breathing new life into historic materials from Spartanburg's textile mill heritage, the new Rainey Amphitheater at Converse College was dedicated over the summer. Spartanburg community member Nancy Rainey Crowley led the effort to save building materials from Clifton Manufacturing Company No. 2 Mill, which was built in 1888 by Converse founder Dexter Edgar Converse.

Crowley sought to honor the mill's history by incorporating them into Spartanburg's future, and found the perfect opportunity in the Converse amphitheater project. The amphitheater incorporates the mill's bricks and woodwork along with the covering over its front door, which enjoys a new home as the amphitheater's centerpiece.

The project was funded by the Callie (Caroline Stringer '37) and John Rainey Foundation of Anderson, SC, of which Crowley is a trustee along with her sister, former chairman of the Converse Board of Trustees, Mary Rainey Belser '69. It expanded the College's original amphitheater to create a performance and event space equipped to meet the needs of both Converse and community groups.

"We have an opportunity to reconnect Upstate South Carolina's rich textile history to the education of new generations of students by reclaiming rather than disposing of our past," said foundation chairman Robert Rainey during the dedication. "It is our privilege to present this amphitheater to Converse College."

The Rainey Foundation funded the project in memory of Stanley Witherell Converse Jr. (1930-1985); and in honor of his son, Stanley Witherell Converse III, and his grandchildren, Clare Rainey, Chloe McCall, Caitlin Reid and Andrew Stringer Converse. Stanley Witherell Converse, Jr. was the great grandnephew of Dexter Edgar Converse and was vice president of Clifton Manufacturing Company.

"One of the greatest gifts we can give artists is space to create," said Dr. Boone Hopkins, dean of the Converse College School of the Arts. "The generous gift of the Rainey Amphitheater will provide generations of Converse performing artists with a beautiful setting to showcase their talents."



A Single Coin Sparks a Lifetime of Leadership

Ever since giving her first gold coin to Converse at Commencement in 1985, Ellen Lanford Asherman has increasingly valued her Converse education – and has increasingly invested in building that value for today's young women.

Freshly minted with a degree in Business Administration and finance, Ellen began her career in Atlanta as one of only two women stockbrokers for EF Hutton. She later became Director of Franchise Real Estate with Flagstar Companies, Inc., traveling extensively throughout the United States and meeting Philip, her husband since 1994.

Following expatriate assignments in South America and Asia, the Ashermans settled in Texas 15 years ago with their three sons Lucas, Ford and Turner. Headquartered in the Houston area, Philip is Chief Executive Officer of CB&I, a Fortune 500 global technology and energy infrastructure company employing over 40,000 people in 85 locations around the world.

Ellen has been a Converse supporter since graduation, but when she met former president Betsy Fleming the Ashermans decided it was time to reconnect with Converse in a more meaningful way by supporting scholarship and various capital projects. Today, Ellen also serves on the Board of Trustees.

"We believe the primary responsibility to support higher education and helping others in the community resides with those in private sector, and in the case of Converse, support from alumnae who have been blessed with a great education and a lifetime association with a strong and successful community of women," said Ellen. "The nearest and dearest relationships in my life are from Converse. It started me on a path to the life I chose to follow, and for that, I will always be grateful."

"The nearest and dearest relationships in my life are from Converse. It started me on a path to the life I chose to follow, and for that, I will always be grateful."





"Those people who remain connected to the College across the years are precious beyond measure to one another and to our alma mater."





A Golden Opportunity: People, Passion and Purpose Unite

What happens when a group of passionate Converse women reconnect at their 50th Reunion Weekend? A lot of laughter, loads of stories and a few powerful outcomes!

"Fiftieth reunions are joyous occasions, not just for the classmates involved but also for the alma mater," said Bee Smith Maybank, a Class of 1966 Reunion Committee Co-Chair. "Reunions remind us of the Converse sisterhood. Those people who remain connected to the College across the years are precious beyond measure to one another and to our alma mater."

Leading up to Reunion Weekend, the Class of 1966 committee rallied their classmates to show their support for the institution by participating in the 50th Class Gift. Fortified by the love and admiration of their classmates as well as

their Converse experiences, the Class of 1966 generated more than \$173,500 in gifts and pledges, doubling the number of donors this year as compared to last year. Their gift will provide funding for a group of Converse Model Arab League students to participate in the Rabat International Model Arab League in Morocco, purchase instrumentation for the Chemistry Program and support the Converse Annual Fund.

"The individual and collective accomplishments of these graduates demonstrate the important role Converse has played in shaping them for personal and professional success," said Mike Kennedy, Associate Vice President for Philanthropy. "Continued alumnae engagement is critical to Converse's future. I'm very proud of what the Class of 1966 has done throughout the years, but especially in honor of their 50th anniversary."



A Lasting Legacy

Dot Grier's Love for Converse

"It's a family story for us. We heard about Converse our whole lives, so you can imagine Converse is a special spot."

Dot Grier left Converse with her English degree in 1950, but in truth she never really left—her legacy lives on. Grier and her husband, Tom, created the Dorothy Ormond Grier '50 and J. Thomas Grier Scholar Fund through Converse's planned giving program, the Miss Gee Society, cementing their desire to benefit future generations of students through their benevolence.

Their scholarship will be awarded to an incoming freshman with a strong academic profile and a "record of excellent citizenship." The Grier's desire to honor such individuals reflects their own strength of character. Dot arrived in Spartanburg from Greenville, NC, and met Tom, then at Wofford College.

They stayed, investing themselves in every aspect of the community. Both served on Converse's Board of Visitors and consistently supported the College. "She got an identity from Converse," says Dot's son, Riley, a retired investment banker in Charlotte whose wife, Alice Denman Grier '78, also attended Converse.

The Grier's children – Riley, his sister, Janice Corley, and their brother, Bob – view the scholarship as a gift from their mother's heart. "It's a family story for us," Riley says. "We heard about Converse our whole lives, so you can imagine Converse is a special spot."



Dorothy Ormond Grier '50, center, works on the Converse yearbook in 1950.



A Plan with Passion & Promise

JOIN THE MISS GEE SOCIETY

When thinking about the future and the distribution of your assets, you may feel torn between those causes you are passionate about and promises made or responsibilities felt for family and friends.

When you begin to explore all the options available with planned giving, you can find a plan customized for you so that giving to your family and giving to your favorite organization are both possible.

CREATE YOUR CONVERSE LEGACY TODAY!

For more information:

Mike Kennedy, CTFA

Associate Vice President for Philanthropy

864.596.9390

mike.kennedy@converse.edu

CONVERSE

Dear Sisters,

I am truly honored to represent such a prestigious organization as the Converse College Alumnae Association. On Saturday, April 23, Haidee Stith passed the ceremonial gavel to me providing me with the unique opportunity to voice your opinions and ideas. Under the leadership of Haidee, our Alumnae Association has become a dedicated, thriving community, one that I hope to continue to strengthen and grow.

As you turn each page of this magnificent magazine I hope you will not only see but also feel the impact and power of your gifts to Converse. Your gifts reverberate within the walls of the College and across her impeccable grounds, ensuring the continuation of their beauty and usefulness for years to come.

More importantly, your gifts allow Converse to provide students with gratifying experiences in and out of the classroom.

Your gifts teach our students to strive for excellence and know that goals are attainable.
Your gifts support the next generation of leaders, scientists, teachers and entrepreneurs.
Your gifts empower our students to secure fulfilling employment that is truly life changing.

Every gift, no matter the size, comes together to be a dynamic and forceful tool for the College. In fact, an amazing 1,754 donors contributed \$1.4 million towards the Annual Fund. Truly there is power in a gift!

Your Alumnae Board is hard at work on programs for 2016 and beyond, including networking initiatives, outreach, and engagement of alumnae of all ages. I ask that you consider becoming involved through one of our chapters, or perhaps as a committee or board member. Your interest and involvement are critical to the well-being of our alma mater.

Sincerely,



Caroline Watts Morris, '64
President, Converse College Alumnae Association



2016-2017 Alumnae Association Board

Ridgley Joyner '10
Elizabeth Biosca '64
Shannon Bishop '97
Elizabeth Brown '91
Sarah Chatel '79
Laura Massey '01
Diane Drake '89
Heather Eldridge '97
Stinson Ferguson '06
Martha Team Garrison '89
Sandra Russell Hartnett '75
Adelaide Capers Johnson '69
Susan Marion '80
Claudia McCollough '62
Caroline Morris '64
Nora Nassri '08
Samantha L. Nicholson '12
Kiley Rikard '00
Carrie Saxon '10
Christi von Lehe Sellars '76
Connie Stillinger '14
Haidee Stith '76
Libby Tilson '79
Elizabeth Walker '06
Kitty Young '66

P.S. I hope to see you at one or more of the alumnae events this year, including our upcoming Inauguration of President Newkirk in April, and of course Reunion 2017 (June 2-4). Plan now to be the first to participate in the new "stay-on-campus" Reunion format. Converse is about to give a new meaning to "summer camp!"



CLASS NOTES

1957

Kitty Blake Pearce's granddaughter, Katie, is marrying a young man from Spain in September. Kitty has twelve grandchildren and Katie is the first to be married. Margaret Dick Wyman has eleven grandchildren and the two oldest, Margaret and Sam, are engaged to be married. Margaret-to a young architect in New Orleans; Sam- to a Converse alumna, **Mary Margaret Collins, '13**.

1958

Nancy Hayes Wilkerson and Bud have sold their home and moved to a retirement home in Charlotte. She has even taken up art classes there. **Frances Shinger Hassell LaBorde** has really had a time breaking different bones and fighting shingles. She has recently moved from Still Hopes Episcopal Home to Atria on Forest Drive in Columbia. **Daisy Barron Leland** shared "our family enjoyed two weeks at Kiawah in 2015. We returned home and three days later I was admitted to the hospital with a severe lung infection. Over the course of 80 days, I was weaned from the ventilator before moving from the rehab hospital to my daughter's **Elizabeth Leland Puckette '86** home on Johns Island where I stayed for 5 months except for 16 days in Florence with my daughter, **Ellen Leland Wilhoit '84** while Libby cared for her dad who was hospitalized. I moved back home to Wadmalaw this past spring where I have now been for about three months.



My daughters were advised by the doctors that my prognosis was not good. But by the grace of God, the prayers of His people and the love and care of my family, I am still here after learning again to stand, walk, write and swallow. Aaron and I are doing well at home with sitters/helpers, Libby and Ellen, when she is in town. While staying in Florence, I attended the "Just for Women" Bible Study with Ellen. I was so pleased to be able to visit after the study with **Helen Oeland Coker '59**. She and I shared a table at Converse my senior year. Helen has a son who is an Anglican minister and

a daughter who is a Presbyterian minister. Also while in Florence, I had nice visits from **Mary Jane Pearce Holland '59** and **Patsy Cox McMillan '57**. Mary Jane has two out of three of her children living in Florence and Patsy has both of her children there. My sister Nan, **Nancy Barron Smith '57**, and her husband are enjoying being at Summit Hills Retirement Home in Spartanburg. They sit next to **Gretchen Eskew Hendrix** in the dining room and sometimes play bridge with her. They are enjoying being in the same town as their daughter, **Nancy Smith Gage '82** and her family. **Alice Howard McClure**



who was Daisy's freshman roommate has been very attentive to Daisy during her illness and recuperation. She has sent lots of cards and she calls as well. She and daughter Libby have become good telephone friends during this time." Daisy also talked with **Caroline Taylor Reddick** recently and believes that Caroline is aging backwards as she seems to get younger. Caroline is still playing tennis regularly and also playing the organ at her Methodist Church. After her husband died, her two daughters bought her a poodle which has been good company for her. **Anne Ferguson Caughman** attended the Palos Verdes Assembly Ball in California where her granddaughter Mary was presented. Ferg was asked to dance at the ball with Bobby Burgess who is remembered well by our generation for dancing on the Lawrence Welk Show on TV.

1960

Emily Littlejohn Israel continues to enjoy her work with the Docent Corps of the Columbia Museum of Art. Recently, her garden was featured in the Columbia Green Festival of Gardens for 2016. Her husband, Charles Israel, Professor Emeritus at Columbia College, received a 2015 Governor's Award in the Humanities from the Humanities Council of South Carolina.

1961

Annie Orr Trost writes that she and Charlie have been married for 53 years, have three children and six grandchildren, all of whom live in Nashville, TN. Last summer, they took all the grands on a Disney cruise to Norway without their parents! She says that she does the volunteer stuff we all do, and that Charlie, who flunked retirement, now teaches in the Law School at Belmont University. **Jane Harper** says that her son, after being a bachelor for 48 years, finally was married in April to a girl who was well worth the wait! **Libba Earhardt Griffith** says that after Steve retired from Duke Energy, they moved an old Victorian house to a property located on Lake Murray, SC, which was acquired by his father in the 1930's. She so loved having a huge area for gardening and a few farm animals that they sold their Charlotte house and now live there permanently. She has a huge family with adult grandchildren, 3 of whom are Clemson grads with outstanding academic records! **Peggy Wilson Schneider**, who lives in Chapel Hill, NC, says her 4 children and 3 grandsons all live close by. The whole family had planned a Christmas trip to Germany, which was postponed by her open heart surgery. Here's wishing her Good Health. **Nina Jameson**

Jordan was glad to connect again with Peggy, who was in her wedding many years ago. Nina and Jim have recently moved to a patio home in Rolling Green, a CCRC. Her address is 412 Milstead Way, Greenville, SC 29615. **Tattin Williams Harvin** writes that she and Dick, retired many years ago from Exxon, are back in Houston, TX, where their 2 daughters, Katherine and Jennifer, and 6 grandchildren live. There are 3 boys and 3 girls, ranging in age from 13 to only 2! Tattin and Dick go back to Clemson football games regularly. Vacation homes in Galveston, TX, and Aspen, CO, are enjoyed with family and friends. She sees **Terrell Cook McMillan '62** often. **Diane Vander Voort Asbill** and Carter built a vacation home in the NC mountains 8 years ago. They enjoyed it so much that they moved permanently from Lexington, SC, to Banner Elk, NC, 3 years ago. They do not miss Columbia's summer heat and greatly enjoy the beauty of their surroundings. Carter takes violin lesson at Appalachian State, and they enjoy concerts there. **Franklin Noll Skidmore** and Rodger are still in Sarasota, FL, where she stays very active. She is chairman of the Sarasota Opera Scholarship Committee for Apprentices, teaches singing, plays clarinet in 2 concert bands and a woodwind quintet, kayaks, plays tennis, and runs on the beach with "Luli." Her daughter, Chambliss, has moved there with her family, which includes the only grandchild, a darling 3 year-old named Juliette! Franklin's son, Andrew, and his wife, live in Wilmington, NC.

1963

Hadley Morgan Hines chimed in first, reporting on her "rather dull, but terribly active" life in Raleigh, NC. That life included a family week at Topsail Beach, a growing stack of summer-reading books (she's going to get to any day now), and memories of visiting Yosemite when she was a 6th grader. **Hattee Ziegler Christian** will be next since classmates whose first names begin with "H" seem to have been the first responders. Hattee wrote while vacationing in Costa Rica with daughter Sally's family and assorted other friends. Hattee floated in the pool, watching the birds and the ocean, while frisky husband Jack zip-lined. Son John's family now includes two little girls and they live in Jacksonville, FL. **Hattie Liddon Andersen** is the farthest away in miles, but is always one of the quickest to respond via email. She writes that **Peggy Rainwater's** niece visited the Andersens while biking in Denmark, and that **Lish Early Willey** is planning to visit them this fall. Hattie says that husband Mogens is 83 now and slowing down, but that they still enjoy long walks on their Danish

island of Bornholm, and speaking of Lish, her daughter Tiffany has a job requiring a lot of international travel, so Lish helps with her three grandchildren there in Birmingham, AL—when she's not traveling the world herself! **Cecil Lewis Caldwell** insists that she has nothing to report about herself, but reports that **Maggie Geer Pyron** has moved to Gainesville, FL, along with family members, and likes life much better there than in Miami, FL. **Anne Flintom McLeod** and Mac enjoyed their 53rd wedding anniversary recently and are looking forward to retreating to the mountains for the summer. **Judy Wainer Ponce** and family are still in Mexico City, Mexico. Judy says she envies Houston's hot, sweaty summer weather—but she could not possibly really mean that! Her 12-year-old granddaughter was admitted to Mexico's National Music School two years ago as a voice student and recently performed in a new opera for children. **Rhetta Fair Wilson** and husband Harold took a super trip to Morocco this past May, guided by one of their Old Dominion University colleagues. Their daughter's recent job promotion now involves lots of international travel—Japan, Paris, etc. That means the Wilsons have gotten even more involved with their grandchildren's lives in Norfolk, VA! **Betty Reynolds Oare** thinks she and Ernie just may have the youngest grandchild amongst us—grandson Noah was born to son Reynolds and his wife Val in February 2016. Any challengers? The Oares are—surprise!—still showing horses and judging horse shows. She reports that there is a huge new North Carolina horse show facility called Tryon International Equestrian Center which is getting a lot of horse show action these days. One of the Center's show rings is actually named for the Reynolds Family because of their history there. A well-deserved honor! **Gelene Duncan Ellsworth** writes from Columbia, SC, that she still has to tote an oxygen tank along with her, which she terms “the pits,” but that her heart problems have lessened somewhat, so life is better. Gelene recently received significant honors from both the Columbia Garden Club and her Chi Omega sorority. Good news like that couldn't help but pep her up! She and husband Carl, Sr. are very excited about the birth of their very first grandchild, Carl Ellsworth, III, on July 3, 2016. The newest Carl is now our class's second youngest grandchild! **Joan Pierce Edgerton** tells us that she has moved back to Charleston, SC. She spends half her time there and half in Mt. Pleasant, SC. She still has grandchildren in Atlanta and some in Singapore. Joan says that **Carlisle Caughman Harvard** and husband

Joe have moved to Charleston. Maybe we ought to have our next reunion in Charleston! **Carolyn Morrow Wynn** is also involved with precious grandchildren there in Spartanburg, SC, but she's planning fun fall travels as well. **Anne Waters Green** spent time in Venice, Italy, with NYC-based daughter Landon and her family this past spring. Frequent trips to Savannah, GA, and Tybee Island help Anne and husband Jim keep in touch with the rest of their combined grandchildren. **Boopie Poole Rose** spent the 2015-16 winter holidays in Botswana, Africa, with her daughter's family. Her son-in-law is on a two-year medical mission there, so the whole family is learning a whole new way of life. **Elaine Smith Moses** announces her April 30, 2016 marriage to Albert Moses, the attorney in whose estate law practice she worked for more than a quarter of a century. Much happiness to the newlyweds! **Betty Moore Henderson** is still teaching Houston's children about raccoons and frogs and earthworms and metamorphosis at her outdoor Audubon nature camp all summer. She's looking forward to her first visits to California's Yosemite National Park and to New York's historic Chautauqua conference center later in 2016. And, of course, grandkid fun and games fill her life with laughter and adventure! **Emily Kerr Stay** has just finished her eight years of service on the Converse Alumnae Board. That was a dedicated gift of love, time, effort and travel from our Emily, who lives in Ohio. Pianist Emily is still planning on being an advocate for Converse's Petrie School of Music, but she's looking forward to having a bit more time to devote to her quilting.

1964

Hands down the one most thrilling thing for our class in the past few months is the appearance of **Ellen Bryant Voigt** as the Founder's Day Speaker for Converse College this past April. She is a MacArthur Foundation Scholar which means she was chosen without applying from the US to do her “work” with an extremely generous stipend for 5 years. **Sarah Miller McDaniel, Sally Riddle Lowry, Liz Harkins Biosco, “B.” Kennedy Durham, Sara Jane Evans Allen, Joan Foster McCowan, Babs Humphries Chung, Pat Parson Hickerson, Henrietta Hughes Outzs, Ann Glascock, Sandy Pickens Wagner** heard her inspiring talk straining with all of their energy to follow the images and threads of her talk. We in fact, requested this speech in writing so that we might study and digest what she had to offer. In the evening **Ellen Holmes Gramling**

joined the group to celebrate E.B. in the home of **June McIntosh Uhler** for a light supper. Since this was also Reunion weekend at Converse, we enjoyed a lunch together in beautiful Wilson Hall and were treated handsomely. Thanks go out to **Anne Mayo Elliot, Jackie Fowler George** and **Susan Craig Murphy**, who completed three years of service in April to Converse and alumnae, as members of The Board of Visitors. Susan, after knee replacement surgery in March, reports that she is feeling great and planning for a family vacation at the beach with her sons, Craig (visiting from Nairobi, Kenya) and Jack, (visiting from Syracuse, NY) and their families including four beautiful grandchildren. It sounds like a grand event as two of John's brothers and families will also be joining them for the week. Susan reported that **Henrietta Hughes Outzs** drove down from Hickory, NC in June for an enjoyable day together including a nice lunch. **Jackie Fowler George** and her husband, Jim, enjoyed a month long tour of five countries in Southeast Asia enjoying the opportunity to see Angkor Wat in Cambodia and other antiquities of these ancient kingdom countries. A highlight of the trip was Vietnam where they visited some of the sights where Jim was stationed twice while serving in the Army during the Vietnam War. **Victoria Talley Colebank** is presently living at Summit Hills in Spartanburg. She remains an avid golf enthusiast and will be back on the course as soon as a broken arm permits. She reports that this accident literally brought her to her knees and caused her to slow down for a few weeks. She and **Sara Jane Evans Allen** enjoyed a lunch together with **Anne Mayo Elliot** at a Summit Hills ladies' luncheon in June. Vicki sends her love to all her classmates. Sorry to hear that Vicki, Anne, and Henri were widowed within 6 weeks of each other a year ago – the end of April and first week in June.

1965

Fran Tinsley Kay ran into **Patty Womack Roberts** at an assisted living facility where they were visiting friends and family. They have happily renewed their Converse ties over lunch several times. **Mary Hill Hatley Lane** lives in Charlotte. She and John enjoyed a visit to Mesa, AZ, to see son Jimmy and his three boys, ages 17, 15, and 12. A favorite spot in AZ is the Spirit of the West Museum in Scottsdale. **Anne Coffey** and **Adelaide Reece Small '66** had a wonderful visit to Sullivan's Island with best friends from childhood. Anne's granddaughter, Morgan, will perform in February with select



high school groups at David Geffen Hall in a production of "Crazy for You." This is her second time to participate in this theater event in the Big Apple. Congratulations to Morgan! **Betty Ruth Byers Mastley** and Dale are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this year. They went on a wonderful Rhine cruise in June. Along with the happiness of 50 years is the bittersweet memory of their older son, Chris, who was killed in an automobile accident in 1994. **Jeannie Pharr Gilland** has become an award-winning artist. Her love of Botany, nurtured by Dr. Powell at Converse, has "blossomed" into a rewarding adventure. The Piedmont Pastel Society, the North Carolina Juried Statewide Pastel Exhibition, and the Brunswick Arts Council have honored her work. Her beautiful art concentrates on close studies of flowers, trees, and leaves. And speaking of art, if you are not Facebook friends with The Johnson Collection, then you should be! Almost every day you can learn something interesting and new about Southern artists and their art. Thanks, **Susan "Susu" Phifer Johnson** and George Dean. **Nina Ross Cobb** and Jimmy enjoy family get-togethers with daughters and grands in Highlands, NC. They travel to London in August for a Baltic cruise to Copenhagen and St. Petersburg. **Mary Ann Remaklus Ready** was also in London in August to hear grandson, Zack, sing with the choir from Trinity Church, Boston, at Westminster Abbey. Her son David, wife, Emmy, and grandsons, Thomas(4) and Curtis(1), have moved to Richmond and live across the street from **Ann Gordon Dickerson Harrison**. They have fallen in love with her, of course. **Julie Miles Brock** shared some sad news. Neal has Parkinson's dementia, and Julie has been treated for ovarian cancer. She is hopeful about her own prognosis and happy that Neal is in a good place where she visits him daily. All of this means many changes for Julie. Her new apartment has nice neighbors, but of course she misses her home of 50 years. She still enjoys knitting and being with her eight-year-old granddaughter. **Anna Dean Johnson** and Yates are also celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. Happy Anniversary to them and to all of you who got married in 1966. Seems like only yesterday. **Marion Rivers Cato** shares: "My life continues to be full with my very active husband and life between Charleston, Charlotte and our working Black Angus cattle ranch in Sheridan, Wyoming! As I write this, we are beginning our Fourth of July family reunion on the ranch with almost all of the seven children and six grandchildren, plus friends. Our past year has been a good one. My husband Wayland and I enjoyed hosting a party in the spring for Charleston alumnae to bid farewell

to Betsy Fleming—we will miss her very much, but look forward to Converse's new chapter ahead. So enjoyed our 50th reunion last year and the great turnout, and hope we can get another one together before too long".

1966

Barbara Nelson Yergens writes: "Thank you to all my classmates who supported the fund raiser to renovate Pell/Dexter. Your donations are greatly appreciated and will be remembered on a plaque at the first floor elevator lobby. Yes, Pell will now have an elevator!" **Sarah "Sally" Clancy Ballard** writes: "The big news for the class of '66 is that many (most) of us "made it" to the 50th Reunion in April. What a grand affair it was!!! The preparations made by the college were amazing beginning with the Appreciation Dinner Thursday evening on the grassy lawn behind the Log Cabin. Our squeals of delight and amazement as we reacquainted with one friend after another echoed across all of Back Campus. It was there that we first caught up with Ms. (Janice) Dengler and found our previous Modern Dance instructor/Director to be in the most amazing health and spirit. (Her memory proved to be better than many of ours; even beginning to recite TS Eliot's "The Hollow Men".) Friday morning dawned a bit overcast, but did not dampen the spirits of the star celebrants of the occasion who chattered loudly amongst themselves in the familiar Gee Hall—it smells the same, looks the same, feels the same! There we donned the traditional black gown in preparation for the Induction of our class into the Golden Club and the Founder's Day Convocation. We continued to recognize and reconnect with our sisters from long ago...50 years is a long time and yet evaporated in the blink of an eye as we embraced those around us. Could it get any better? Yes! As we marched down the center aisle of Twichell Auditorium, to the standing ovation and cheers of faculty and students, we were transformed; we were the young women looking toward the future again. For a few brief moments we were filled with the delicious feeling of our beginning. It was magical. Sliding slowly into our seats and back into our present surroundings, we were filled with the knowledge of how very special the moment was 50 years ago; Converse College still has her fingerprints all over each of our lives. That realization flooded our minds and hearts. The remainder of our time was spent amongst friends (new and old) at the Founder's Day Luncheon, the touching Memorial Service in Gibbs Chapel, Alumnae Association Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony,



CONNIESTOCK, book signing with Ellen Bryant Voigt, or Alumnae Recitals. The culmination of our time back at Converse? The Class Dinner! It was a grand affair, silver and china and hosted at the home of President Fleming. (We were indeed a bevy of beauties!) Leaving Converse this time was even more special. I think now we take even more special memories with us and take nothing for granted. Aging can really be a delicious time, a time to remember and to savor the people and the times in our life. Converse has been and remains a "tie that binds."

1967

Martha Kavanaugh Hunt has just published her first book – A Wishful Tale of Elephants and Donkeys. Available on amazon.com, this whimsical fable is a tad political but all in fun with a sweet message for children (and parents), a happy ending, and donkeys and elephants that are all equally adorable. Yes, it is, indeed, A Wishful Tale ...

1968

After living over 30 years in China and Thailand working for Wycliffe Bible Translators, **Louise Kelley Diehl** and husband Lon will be returning home to Dallas in September to enjoy time

with their two sons and families. They will continue to travel to Asia to implement the training they developed. Joan Hemphill loves her new home on beautiful Bainbridge Island, 35 minutes across 4 Puget Sound from downtown Seattle. She celebrates the riches each day and season bring, from the lilacs that perfume the whole island in early spring, to the lush, aggressive green of full summer, to the mallards that splash down in late winter to the pond outside her window. Joan's favorite weekly appointment is her advanced Italian conversation class. Several years ago, **Carol Early Graham** was playing in a concert at her church in Vista, CA. Afterwards **Melinda Kern Whitelaw '62** greeted Carol after reading in program notes that she graduated from Converse. Malinda studied voice with Radianna Pazmor and Joyce Hobbs. Carol and Malinda meet frequently to reminisce about Converse. Small World!

1969

Anita Parker Ziegler had a fun reunion with Kit Benton Broadhurst in Winston-Salem. They shared memories of being the "Supremes" with **Beegie Johnston** on Pell Hall! Anita has 4 happily married children and 5 grands. **Harriet Dobbins** is busy helping her mother who turns 100 in January and taking care of her husband

and precious dog, Annie. She works three days a week in a consignment shop. **Mary Scott Snyder's** only daughter married last May. She and her husband Wil accomplished a ten-year goal of hiking a part of the Appalachian Trail in every one of the 14 states it traverses from Georgia to Maine. She would love to hear about any classmate's adventures on the trail. **Pookie Banks McLaughlin** and family are looking forward to son Parker's wedding in Oregon in mid- August. **Katherine Zahniser Bailey** shares that she and her husband are retired & live about 40 miles west of Boston. "We spend part of the winter in FL to get away from the snow & ice & severe Massachusetts winters. Other than winter, I love the area, but it is VERY different from the South. However, we usually stop in Richmond, NC & Georgia on our way to/from FL. We have 4 grandchildren nearby." **Nancy Joiner Hiatt** is happy to report that "it has been over five years since my breast cancer. My next hurdle was a knee replacement surgery in January 2016. Our three daughters have given us eight grandchildren, six boys and two girls. I do a lot of babysitting and go to a lot of ball games. We are so fortunate that all of them live in Atlanta."

1970

In spring 2015 we had a quality group of classmates at our reunion: **Claire Hailey Hall, Bonnie Morgan Isner, Pattie Downes Johnson, Kay Gamble Molnar, Barbara Holman Stith, and Janice "Smack" Mack**. A fun activity we did together was write down a truth and a non-truth about ourselves, and the rest of us had to guess what was true. No secrets will be revealed now—you should have been there with us! Claire stays busy helping out with her five grandchildren and tending to husband Scott. Bonnie teaches part time and babysits for grandchildren. Pattie and husband Steve enjoy taking interesting trips. Kay travels and she uses her degree in French. Barbara is a certified Master Gardener who likes exercising her green thumb. **Marion Brooke Philpot Carson** had her bags packed and was ready to go, but the flu had other ideas for her. She is happily re-married to Charles, enjoys her grandchildren, and she lives in Charlotte. **Janice Myron Cotter** moved back to Virginia after living in New York City and helping with grandchildren there. **Brenda Williams Ketchey** frequently sees classmates who live near her and had hoped to attend the reunion. **Stuart Rinehart Stewart** stays very busy as a Senior Associate Rector of a large



Episcopal parish in Baltimore. Husband Bill and their two children also stay busy with careers.

Janet Stulting became quite the world traveler working with non-profit organizations after retiring from a legal career—working in Africa, France, China and Ukraine. Then she started seeing the world, going to such places as Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Scotland, and Spain. Her two children have active careers. **Natalie Eubanks Tally** and her husband also like to travel and they were in CA during reunion weekend. **Mef Luttrell Underwood** stays busy caring for several house pets and working with an on-line business with her daughter. Visits with classmates who live close by have been fun. In December, one was with **Nancy Jane Stedman Calloway, Ann Joyner Cross, and Lynda “Smitty” Smith Swann.**

Nancy Jane is earning her angel wings being a care giver to her two elderly parents and two sick sisters. Ann continues to help out in her husband’s office and often babysits for some of her three grandchildren; both of her children are married with busy careers in NC. “Smitty” is a new grandmother and takes pride in her two daughters who also live in NC and have busy careers.

Howard Brown Millican, Lynnie Hicks Mitchell and Janice get together several times a year. They also attended the same high school and will attend a high school reunion this fall. Howard stays busy with her canine child, travel, and the travels of her son doing bird migration research. Lynnie hits the highway to Wilmington part of each week to babysit for her new grandson while his mother is at work. Lynnie’s younger daughter is headed to Sweden to temporarily live and work. Recently had e-mail communication with **Jan Rorbeck Dees, Sue Fan Smith Ferguson** and **Patty Downes Johnson.** Sue Fan’s father lived to the ripe age of 101 before passing away in June. Jan had a knee replacement in June, and is making progress.

Ann Joyner Cross received her bionic knees a few years ago, and Janice is joining her club with bilateral knee replacement surgery during the summer; it will be a done deal by the time the magazine is printed. Patty was at the beach in July and saw **Ann Owens** and **Susan Shaw Hufham,** both are doing well. Christmas cards were received from most of the classmates listed above. In addition to those, **Eileen Nolen Rampey** continues to be enjoying her new chapter of life being happily married to Stephen. **Thayer Cheatham Willis** stays busy with her business of helping those with wealth to lead meaningful lives. **Perry Hicks Jordan** stays busy with horses and following the careers of her two daughters.

1971

The Class of 1971 had a grand reunion in April in Spartanburg. We enjoyed visiting with many at the picnic on Friday. We were well represented in the Class March Friday morning. We had great weather for Saturday and enjoyed a variety of events. At the Class meeting we caught up with **Mindy Thompson Orman, Alanna Ivey Wildman, Bobbie Daniel, Melissa Teague Albert, Vicky Vann Meyer, Sarah Belle Miree Tollison, Lynne Montgomery Rubino, and Susie Cole Wean.** Mindy and Scott continue to make Nashville their home with work in real estate, photography, travel to see their children in New York, NC and Turkey plus volunteer work keeping them busy. Alanna and Don were our wonderful hosts of our class dinners and shared pictures of earlier reunions and travel. Susie is on our Board of Trustees and she updated us on many projects as well as reminded us why Converse needs our support. Melissa and John have a new company and are enjoying beach time with their children and grandchildren. Vicky and her family are a handsome bunch. Lynne has a new job with a company that suits her time. Sarah and Fred are enjoying their children and grandchildren and life in Weaverville, N.C. **Jane Byrd Melton** lives in Clemmons and runs into Bobbie Daniel in the YMCA parking lot. She enjoys activities with her daughter’s family who are in Mocksville. Jane has been to Camp Greystone for a week as a camp counselor and had to hobble around wearing a boot for a stress fracture. Back to the Future (at the Class Meeting) we all agreed that we want everyone to be ready for our 50th reunion and 10 of us will begin putting together plans in 2020 for the reunion in April, 2021. **Sarah Levi Freeman** writes that they welcomed granddaughter Evelyn Clarece in August. Her oldest granddaughter, Virginia, turns 7 in November and they are going to see the Grand Canyon. In January, Sarah is going with the Arboretum to visit Cuba. **Linda Waller Holden** tells us that after retiring from 32 years in Elementary Education she has started her own skincare business with Rodan and Fields. **Vicky Vann Meyer** says “I love retirement! Mark is still working, but he took time off to travel to Eastern Europe on a river cruise with a group from Wofford last August. We made such nice friendships.” **Sarah Middleton Pritchett** has been retired from Delta Airlines since 2008 and loves playing golf and volunteering for the Fayette Humane Society. **Patricia Womack** retired approximately 4 years ago and moved to Columbia, SC to be near family.



1972

Betty Blanton Lewis writes that she and her husband Rod moved to Winter Haven, FL to take care of her mother. She can now visit her good friends **Patti Snively Herndon '73** and **Mary Margaret Smith Dolcimascola**. **Frances Stoddard Loudon** tells us that after teaching for 40 years, she has retired and she and her husband have been seeing the beautiful USA camping. They just recently camped for 49 days and 111 miles seeing many national parks! **Cotten Butterworth Moring** welcomed their fourth grandchild in March 2015. Her husband retired in July 2015 and they are looking forward to traveling with friends. **Alice Kraus Palmer** has two granddaughters born 2013 and 2015. She and **Ann Williams Brinson** got together last summer with their husbands in Vermont for a long weekend. **Victoria Hunt Cox** is retired, working part-time and volunteering on committees for the National Research Council, the Systems Engineering Research Center, AIAA and the Governor of VA as a member of his Unmanned Systems Commission.

1973

Mary Nell Rogers Brandt and husband, Bucko, have two children in Spartanburg and two in Asheville. They have an eight-year

old granddaughter and another baby, due in February. Bucko is still practicing law, playing racquetball and painting. Spartanburg has been a wonderful place in which to live and rear a family. **Susan Jones Hanks** is loving her life more than ever now that she has retired from teaching music for 25 years. She keeps busy with her job as choir director and pianist at Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church in Rose Hill, NC. In the two years since she retired, she has enjoyed traveling to Europe and the Far East as well as working at the Duplin Winery in Rose Hill, NC. In her spare time, she plays the Mountain Dulcimer with a local group. **Alida Mclivain Haslett** is about to celebrate her 39th wedding anniversary with her husband, John. She keeps busy in her retirement painting, arranging flowers, gardening, and consulting on framing projects. Her four children are scattered all over the country. Daughter Alida, teaches Special Education, son Matt teaches music, son Nick is preparing for MCATs, and son John works as a realtor. Alida recently met her big sister from her freshman years at Converse in New Orleans and **Merrie Gayle Holcomb McNemar** was able to visit Alida at her home recently where they relived the good days of Converse life. **Susan Marrash Minnerly** and her family happily are safe from the devastating floods that have caused so much damage near her home in Charleston, WV. Susan will retire in December from West

Virginia State University where she has been a full Professor of Theater. Her husband, Doug, is still pastoring at McKinnon Presbyterian Church. Son Nathan is celebrating 21st birthday this fall. Susan is looking forward to spending time at her two favorite places this summer - Staunton, VA, for the American Shakespeare Center and the Outer Banks of NC. **Mary Gwathmey Michaux** is still living in Greensboro, NC, and is working part time at the Center for Creative Leadership where she has been for 31 years. But that will not last much longer as she plans to retire in December 2017. Since her daughter, Megan (33) lives near her, she gets to enjoy her most favorite job - being a grandmother. Her three grandchildren Hunter (7), Lily (4), and Emma (2) are frequent subjects of her Facebook posts. Mary regularly sees **Sue Sheehy Cole** who is busy with her five grandchildren as well as playing tennis and working. She ran into **Elizabeth Payne Brumeloe** recently, and they are planning a get-together with **Anne Collins Conover** who also lives in Greensboro, NC. **Melissa Parham Musgrove** moved to Huntsville, AL just after graduation and still is enjoying living there. She runs an interior landscaping business called Foliage Design Systems that provides live plants for commercial spaces. Sadly, she lost her husband to cancer four years ago, but she has found some good times playing with an old time string band. Melissa's daughter, Cade, is a sophomore at Wake Forest in PA school, and son, Rawls has just entered West Point, Class of 2020. **Susan Embry Naylor** is retiring after teaching at Reinhardt University for 42 years. In celebration of her retirement, she presented a recital in March that also honored the life and legacy of Dr. George Lucktenberg who was her teacher at Converse and Artist-In-residence at Reinhardt. Her roommate at Converse, **Rhonda Harvey Lingerfelt** and Susan get together every summer to enjoy pretending that they are still in college. Now that she has retired, she is looking forward to seeing everyone at our next reunion. **Louise Bush Watkins** lives in Dallas, TX, where her two children live nearby. Son Rob (32) is a mortgage lender, and daughter Clare (25) works for Dallas Children's Advocacy Center. After teaching little kids for years, Louise has switched to working with seniors to help connect them to volunteer opportunities in their community. She has recently connected with **Cindy Seabrook**, **Kippy Sadler Kennerly**, and **Nancy Atkinson Patch** are planning to meet in Charleston, SC, this fall.

Kay Humphries Maddox has been busy singing in three choirs, playing handbells at church, working part-time for a florist, and studying voice again. The best part of retirement has been being available to babysit grandchildren wherever needed. Son Aaron (41) and wife, Laura, and grandchildren children, Garret (16) and Olivia (6), live in Centreville, VA, where Aaron works as a consultant for a construction firm. Son Robert (32) with wife, Bridget, and their children, Ainsley(6) and Raegan(1) live in Lexington Park, MD, where he works at St. Mary's College as Director of Financial Aid. **Sharon Amos Shealy** has spent the last 26 years as a residential real estate agent in Winston Salem, NC, where she and husband Ronnie live. Her two children have followed their mom's lead and both work in real estate. Daughter, Mindy Mickle, is an agent for Debordieu Colony near Georgetown, and son Chip is in commercial real estate in Charleston, SC. Sharon and Donnie spend lots of time traveling to Charleston to enjoy Lindy's two boys, Jackson (8) and Whit (5). They traveled to Greenville several months ago and met **Mary Nell Rogers Brandt** and husband, Bucko, **Rosie Bingham Blackburn** and husband, Percy, and **Judy Bell Oliphant** and husband, Albert, at the funeral of Ricky Schroder, **Caroline Wrigley Schroder's** husband. **Catherine Ward Harkey** has recently retired as a director of church music, after serving four different churches in the Charlotte, NC, area. Her son, Jon and his wife, Jill, live in Atlanta, GA, with granddaughter, Brooke (3). Son Chris lives in Charlotte and runs an internet marketing company. She and husband, Henry, are downsizing and looking forward to volunteer work, traveling, and spending as much time as possible with family and their granddaughter.

1974

Beth Guess Neighbors is beginning her 20th year of teaching 7th grade Social Studies at Pizitz middle school. She and husband Mike celebrated their 42nd wedding anniversary this year. Mike works for Coca Cola Bottling in Birmingham, AL. Her daughter, Mary Ellen, has two children, and they live in Huntsville, AL. Her son Adam has two girls, and they live in Destrehan, LA. Son Matthew is single and resides in Huntsville, AL. **Janie Kerr Pride** and husband Sam live in Midland, GA with their two standard poodles and two Dutch dressage ponies. They will travel to the United States Military Academy in September for Sam's 45th West Point Reunion. They will join fellow classmates on a cruise to Bermuda. Their travel plans include a trip to the Panama

Canal in October and to Australia/New Zealand in December. Sam continues to show his classic cars, and Janie shows her two Dutch ponies. In July, Janie will show at the National Dressage Pony Cup in Lexington, KY. **Amanda Horton Dorman** shares that **Frances Smith McLean** closed her cute St. Simons shop and is spending her newly found discretionary time with bird watching, photography and cycling. She and Amanda recently had lunch in Savannah, GA with noted bird enthusiast, Diana Churchill. Ellen Ford Grigsby lives in Dallas, TX and has the privilege of working with a ministry that is serving Christians in the mountains of the Middle East. Amanda and family are dividing their time between their home in Savannah, GA and their farm north of Columbus, GA, where her family has planted their first vegetable garden. Weeding, mowing, fishing, honey harvesting and grandbaby watching have kept Amanda very busy. **Peggy McKewen Kyzer** writes that she has recently moved to Anna Maria Island, FL to be closer to her daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren after a lifetime in Birmingham, AL. **Elodie Hale Craig** reports that she and daughter Elizabeth horse packed in the Wind River Wilderness last summer with the National Outdoor Leadership School. They had a wonderful trip at 12,000 feet elevation! Elodie recently spent time with **Cathy Sloss Jones '75** in NC. Elodie is painting often and spends free time with her husband, horses and dogs. **Susie Nettles Miller's** husband, Alan Miller, Wofford '74, retired at the end of May after 38 years of service to the Federal Government. He served 14 years in the Judge Advocate General division, 13 years at the Department of Justice Department in the Civil division and 11 years at the Office of Personal Management where he retired as the Associate General Counsel. Now Susie and he will have more time together for traveling, visiting family and friends, hiking, wine tasting and going to the gym. Susie is volunteering for the Fairfax County Library program, Ready to Read, having left her position with the program in June to spend time with granddaughter, Zoey and to travel with Alan. The Ready to Read program consists of five people who visit all 120 plus Head Start Programs in Fairfax County, VA. Each child receives a book of his/her own every month at story time. The books are provided by the Friends of the Fairfax Library. They give out over 20,000 books each year. They also provide monthly free training for preschool and Head Start teachers. Susie is proud to be a part of this special program. Susie continues to volunteer for her favorite organization ECHO. ECHO provides emergency assistance to disadvantaged people, along with food, clothing and housewares. Susie's special



project was to start Enrichment Packages for children ages birth – 14. These packages include books, a stuffed animal, something educational and something fun! Son Josh is opening a coffee shop, Damn Fine Coffee Bar, in the Logan Circle neighborhood in Chicago, IL. Daughter Maggie works at the Office of Personnel Management. She travels to Washington, DC for work, and Susie and Alan get to babysit their granddaughter, Zoey. She and Alan are looking forward to exploring DC with Zoey during Maggie's visits. **Janie Kerr Pride** has formed a Facebook group page, Converse College Class of 1974. Please send her a friend request so that she can add you to the page!! Also, please send her your current email address. She encourages her outstanding classmates to send news to janiepride@yahoo.com and to post to the Converse group page!!

1976

Leah Colley Welty is moving back to Troy, AL in a few weeks. She has been living in West Virginia since 1976- Time to move back to family and near her grandson.

1977

Rusty Keesler is Director of Music Ministries at Fernwood Baptist Church in Spartanburg. **Rick Fairweather** is Trust Administration Consultant for Wells Fargo Bank in Winston-

Salem, NC. **Dr. Randall "Randy" S. Sulton** is Professor of Music at East Texas Baptist University. **Donna Kaiser Croft** is enjoying retirement and spending time with her 2-year old granddaughter Maggie. Having reared two boys, Donna says she is delighted to have a girl to spoil! Donna and Grover recently enjoyed a two-week cruise down the Rhine through Germany, France, and Holland. **Babi Smith** enjoyed a three-week summer vacation in Alaska which included halibut fishing and gorgeous scenery. The highlight of the trip occurred June 24 when Babi and David Nance exchanged their wedding vows amid a backdrop of glaciers! **Susan Smith Eberhardt** and husband Dennis live in Bay Point, FL (Panama City Beach). They have three married children living in Boston, Dallas and Omaha, and nine grandchildren. Susan remains a practicing artist and enjoys painting more than ever since retiring in 1996 and relocating to Florida from Dallas, TX. She has two studios in Florida and says she has always cherished and used her Converse BFA degree. **Mary Ellen Sims Gurley** says her children are in Denver and Nashville so she gets to travel from north Georgia to their wonderful homes, in exciting cities, but not often enough! Mary Ellen received a newsy letter from **Cina Duggan Smith** about enjoying a piano concert given by Beth Child. **Beverly Blanton Duzik** is Director of Development at Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, AR. **Susie Beckham Zurenda** retired from teaching English full-

time three years ago and now works part-time in book publicity with Magic Time Literary Publicity, where she develops book tours for authors and reaches out to the media on their behalf. Older daughter, Kassie, has a nearly three-year old daughter, Nora Mae Baker. Younger daughter, Susanne, and her husband Brian are expecting the birth of a son in August. **Dr. Susan Kirby Roe** reports that daughter Catherine graduated from Mercer University School of Medicine and is now Dr. Catherine Jordan Roe! Catherine will do a pathology residency at Emory University Hospital in Decatur, GA. Susan is Head of Department of Fine Arts and voice professor at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. Husband Wayne continues to love his job as senior pastor of the First Baptist Church of Tifton, GA where he recently celebrated his 20th year. **Betsy Brewer Grimes** and her husband traveled to Greece this summer to celebrate 38 years of marriage. **Carter Desportes Hall** recently semi-retired from being a financial advisor to working for her husband Dave at the Virginia Institute of Blacksmithing (VIB) as Director of Student Services. VIB teaches the crafts of Blacksmithing, Welding, and Metalsmithing/Jewelry. **Leslie Scoles Provence** owns a shop in Greenville called The Shops of Provence which carries china, crystal, and silver lines for brides as well as gifts and jewelry. Leslie and Hall are enjoying their three granddaughters. Daughter Elizabeth has identical two-year-old twin girls and son Hall has a one-year-old girl. Husband Hall has retired so they have lots of trips planned.

1978

Rilla Altman Thomas writes: "We now have 3 grandchildren. Everett is 21 months old now. This June we had 2 more born 26 hours apart! Everett's baby brother, Phillip was born on June 13 at 8:08 am in Lexington, SC. On Tuesday, June 14 at 9:39 am, our granddaughter Halle Belle was born in Conway!" Needless to say, she and Phil are so grateful and blessed with 3 grandchildren to love and enjoy. Go Pink Panthers!

1979

Georgia Miller, a Homewood Middle School ESL teacher, received the Motivating Woman's Award at the recent Birmingham International Center's (BIC) International Women's Day celebration.

1980

Ceil Stewart Bone and husband, Bo, love spending time with adorable grandson Adam (1). Ceil will enjoy a whitewater adventure with fellow classmates **Sally Turner Martin**, **Laura Satterwhite Hodge**, **Lisa Royster**, and **Alison Culp Cookson**, before she starts her 12th year of teaching art at Brookstone School in Columbus, GA. What fun! **Kimberly Terry Carver** is back in SC after living all around the nation, and she has been substitute teaching in Greenville County, mainly at the Child Development Centers working with special needs children and volunteering with the local humane society. Kim also spends her time with different Autism organizations. She especially treasures being close to her granddaughters Emmaleigh (5) who is autistic, and Gabreyelle (3) whom she calls her "mini-me"! Liz Topp Klammer and husband Brian are grandparents almost twice now. Daughter **Katherine Klammer Bradbury '09** had a daughter Elizabeth in October 2015, and son, Karl, and his wife will welcome their first child, a boy, in August. Liz has almost completed her PhD in Curriculum and Instruction from Texas Tech and will graduate in 2017. She is currently head of middle school science in a STEM school in San Francisco. She and Brian look forward to moving back to SC in the next few years. Way to go Liz! **Mona Burris Dukes**

will retire next May after 34 years of work in higher education. Congratulations Mona! She is sure to enjoy spending time with her two marvelous grandchildren.

1982

Becky Brasington Clark began her new position as Publishing Director at the Library of Congress. There is an impressive press release at <http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2016/16-025.html?locrl=ealn> Congrats Becky! **Peggy Merriman Trivelas** relocated from Aiken, SC to Lexington, SC where she works as a Principal in Saluda County. Husband Nick stays busy with Trivelas Music; son Mark recently married and lives in Florida. Peggy made her move to be closer to her grandchildren Connor who is four and Braden who is eighteen months. Speaking of grandkids, **Kathryn Grimball Peebles** is expecting her second grandchild. Kathryn is a special needs teacher in Salisbury, NC. **Pamela Watson** lives in Richmond, VA and is enjoying her granddaughter Lena Jeanne. **Anne Richardson Seabrook** and March are doing well in Columbia SC; their first grandchild Charlotte Eaddy was born in November to son Nelson and his wife. Anne and March have been doing more traveling including several rewarding mission trips to Haiti as well as their entire family reunited for a trip to the Kentucky Derby.



Daughter Elizabeth just passed her CPA exam and graduated in December from Wake Forest with a Master of Science in Accountancy. **Emeline Thomasson Loughlin** is now enjoying living part time in Colorado. She still enjoys needlepoint; son Ed sells real estate in Newman, GA and son, Evan, is a second year cadet at the US Air Force Academy. **Ann Grimboll Peeples'** daughter, **Laurie** graduated from Converse with a Masters in Music Education and will be moving to Miami to work on a PhD in Music Therapy. **Connie Pease Happell's** son, Brian, graduated from Davidson College in May. Connie and Eric are relocating to Connie's hometown of Columbus, GA. Eric is retiring and Connie hopes to serve a church in the area. Connie is excited to return home to the South. **Lucy Barr James** and husband Chip have relocated from Columbia, SC to Daniel Island, SC. Lucy has a position at Common Wealth Financial Group and Chip at Benefitfocus. Son Alston graduated from Wake Forest Medical School and is now a General Surgery resident at Washington University in St Louis, MO. Son Bryce lives on James Island and is in the Band "Atlas Road Crew" (www.atlasroadcrew.com). **Linda Still Winegardner** is also enjoying a return to the Lowcountry with

a "preretirement" condo on Daniel Island. She and husband Vince enjoyed catching up with Lucy and Chip over dinner. Lucy and Linda are both enjoying the laid back "island life" on the Wando River. **Kimberly Branan Rooker** has retired after 29 years as an orchestra teacher with Gwinnett County Public Schools. Her retirement plans include traveling with her husband, Mark, visiting her daughter, **Marla Jean Rooker**, who is a reporter for WTOG News in Savannah, GA and her son Davis who is enrolled at Kennesaw College. Kimberly will continue her music by playing cello in her string quartet and teaching cello and piano at her home studio. Continue to send positive thoughts and well wishes to **Nancy Curtis Crain** as her son, Hunter, continues to recover from his heart transplant. There are also some other ways to show Nancy support during this time - more information, visit "Heart for Hunter" Facebook page. **Antoinette Guzzi Erdman** has worked in their dental office for 27 years. She received her Masters in Pastoral Studies in 2013 from Loyola University in New Orleans. She and her husband celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in August 2015. They have 3 sons, no daughter-in-laws - yet! **Bobbie Janiec Rafferty** moved from Louisville

to Chicago in 2014 to become Director of Individual Giving for the Chicago Symphony. She would love to reconnect with other Converse alums in the area! **Eva Ramantanin Poteat** attended graduate school for Education. She is retired from teaching and she and her husband are full time caregivers for her 97-year-old mom. They enjoy their grands every chance they get. **Elizabeth Williams Grayson** and Bo Taylor married on July 26, 2014 at Garden City Beach.

1983

Wynn Smith writes: "I am happy to call Spartanburg home again for the first time since 1983. I moved from Greer to Spartanburg in February. It feels good".

1984

Jody Cole moved to Asheville, NC. She is still guiding tours in Africa. **Karen Thomas** is still doing Research and Development for the Automotive Industry and is still practicing Chiropractic care of twenty-eight years with husband, David.

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1987

Beth Woods Sessums hosted a fun reunion in June at her house in Cashiers, NC. **Wallis Crum Bond**, **Sherrie Moss Board**, **Peggy Hair Alford**, **Julie Norville**, **Rebekah Jennings Murphy**, and **Martha Lynn Mercer Gaskins** all had a great weekend hiking, shopping, and laughing! Beth's daughter, Clare, has graduated from Auburn and is teaching in Tampa. **Martha Lynn Mercer Gaskins** got the chance to have lunch with Clare this summer and so enjoyed seeing her! Beth's son is a rising junior at Auburn. Wallis and Peggy visited with **Sheila Ferry van Inwegen** when her sons were in town touring USC. Wallis also ran into **Nancy Davenport** in Charleston. Nancy and her daughter Ellison have enjoyed traveling around the country this summer. Peggy and her family spent three weeks this summer in France and England. Her oldest son is a rising senior at USC, and her youngest is a rising senior in high school. **Rebekah Jennings Murphy's** daughter Kathryn graduated from high school this spring and will attend Kennesaw State University this fall. **Sherrie Moss Board** has a lot going on! She recently sold her home in Atlanta and is in the process of building; her high school son is involved in several

sports and plays on travel teams, and she is trying to travel with husband Mark as much as possible. She stays on the road! **Julia Norville** also travels a lot with her job, but enjoys time at her lake home outside of Atlanta as much as possible. Julie and her partner, Aureore Murphy, celebrated their first anniversary this summer. **Elizabeth Finlay Vingi** traveled to Spain with her oldest son, Marshall, this summer, while her husband took their younger sons on a cross-country road trip. **Rachel Hean Dobson** has a rising high school senior, and her younger son will attend McCallie in Chattanooga this fall. **Teresa Gagnon Maino** and her family had a fun vacation to Maine this summer. **Ashley Kilgore Wimmer** has had an excellent season with her horse, Somerhall, this year. She spent the winter in Florida and is riding in Tryon, NC, this summer. **Elizabeth Shelton Roddy** and her family are living in Bern, Switzerland. They are enjoying everything that living in Europe offers, and she posts gorgeous pictures of their travels. Their oldest son is a rising senior at the Coast Guard Academy, and her youngest is a rising high school senior. **Jerry Ann Conner** and her family spent some time at her family's home in Litchfield Beach this summer. **Cheryl May Hawkins Steadman** is doing an amazing job raising funds for the new Shawn Jenkins

Children's Hospital in Charleston. **Terri Minton** is having a blast of a summer-vacationing in Seattle with her daughter Jessi and also joining **Janet Lynn Bean** at Falls Park for Greenville's Upstate Shakespeare festival. As an English major [thank you Dr. Byars!], Janet has commemorated the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death by making a pilgrimage to see an original First Folio when on display at USC in Columbia, SC. A surprising part of the exhibit: 1916 Ys and Other Ys opened to the page of Converse students performing an all-female production of Twelfth Night. **Ruth McCormack McDaniel** continues performing both on stage and in the pit for productions at the Younts Center for Performing Arts in Fountain Inn, SC. Ruthie was a wonderful Mrs. Gibbs in the *Our Town* performance attended by **Janet Bean, Adele Penland Boyce** and **Terry Minton**. **Amy Clawson Williams** is living in Clayton, NC where she teaches middle school Spanish. She furthered her education after Converse at NC State. She has two teenagers, Noah and Caleb. Adele recently heard from fellow bio major, **Lynda Navratil Garrett** in Florida. She and her husband, Rob, have been biology teachers for 27 years now. She is a 10-year breast cancer survivor. Their two grown daughters have purchased adjacent, working ranches in Arcadia, FL. Lynda says that's where they expect to retire in a few years and will enjoy spoiling grandchildren. **Molly Levy Campbell** and husband, Paul, welcomed their first grandbaby from Paul's son. He was born July 9 and is named George. They enjoyed going to Kanuga Conference Center and the Scottish Highlands Games in WNC this year. **Sandy Wright Riccardi** traveled across the country with her cabaret show. She and her husband Richard were spot-on with their satirical songs in a show called "Tastefully Raunchy." It was attended by at least four Converse girls this summer. **Anna Taylor Poole** teaches elementary school music in Greenville Country. She had double knee replacement surgery and is on target to be hiking and dancing again by publication time. **Sue Terry Glenn** has three children at home now: Josiah, Eliana and Isaiah who range in age from college to fifth grade. She also has four grandchildren. She and her husband, Stan, teach special needs children in Oconee County. **Erin Docherty** also is a Special Education teacher. She is extremely proud of her talented teenager, Rae, who plays bassoon in the Dorman High School Orchestra in Spartanburg. Erin is a dedicated foster mother

to children with special needs. **Martha Lynn Mercer Gaskins** and her family vacationed in Maine this summer as did **Teresa Gagnon Maino** and crew. **Peggy Hair Alford** took her family to France this summer. And free spirit, **Mary Kay Seckinger** took her family of five to Oslo, Stockholm and London for vacation. **Adele** shares "As for me, I'm still pharming in Spartanburg a few miles away from where **Meredith** is a sophomore at Converse. Tom and I got a divorce (yes I said it) and Meredith is afraid that I'll get scurvy from not eating right. Hey, she gets 3 meals a day in the dining hall. I retired from cooking! See you in Spartanburg for our 30th reunion." For more information on the Class of 1987, keep checking their Facebook page!

1988

Many of our classmates have or will soon celebrate a "milestone" (50) birthday. Happy, happy to all! **Missy Hughes Parkison** is moving to Jacksonville, FL. She will be working for the Diocese of St. Augustine as Formation Coordinator and is working towards a Doctorate of Ministry at Catholic University of America. Her husband, Paul, has accepted a position at the University of North Florida. Her daughter, Mary Cassidy, graduated in May from University of Evansville and will soon begin work with Nashville Repertory Theatre. Son, Sam, is a rising senior at Bellarmine University in Louisville. Missy is looking forward to living in the same city as John and Jill Jenkins Wright. **Kris Rao Haimbach** is in her second year as a high school special education teacher in Spartanburg County. She received her MAT degree from Converse College in 2013. Her daughter is a senior at Clemson University. Her son is a freshman at Wofford College; he also graduated from Basic Training in May. **Julie Poole Martini** played a leading role in "The Sorcerer" with the Simsbury Light Opera Company in April. This summer, she began a new job as Senior Internal Audit Consultant with Aetna. **Susan Cunningham Owen, Barbara Dekle Lauff, and Scott Oxner** traveled to Santa Barbara to surprise **Ginny Agee Spiers** for her 50th birthday. She said it was such a fun trip! **Kristin Austin Smith** enjoyed seeing roommate, **Kimilee Bryant** and her sister, Candice, in their Performing Arts Renaissance Theatre's (PART) production of "Into the Woods" in May. Looking forward to hearing from more Pink Panther friends soon!

1990

Charlotte Hooper Ceier writes "My husband's job has taken us overseas again to New Zealand this time! We love it here. It is like living in the 1970s again with the safety we felt growing up. We visited Hobbiton and it is a wonderful place – makes you want to live in a hole underground." **Page Huss Curlee** shares "I am currently working part time at High Point Christian Academy where my husband, Keith, is the Head of School. I am the International Student Coordinator. We are looking forward to a 2 week trip to China in March of 2017 to help recruit students for our international program. Our four children are doing well - Milly (age 21) is a rising senior at Anderson University in Anderson, SC. Wade (age 19) is a rising sophomore at USC Columbia. Hunter (16) is a rising junior in high school, and Levi (14) is a rising 8th grader." **Caroline West McDowell** writes "Our oldest, Emily, graduated from Clemson in Industrial Engineering, is working and living in Greenville, SC, and is getting married in February. Catherine will be a senior at Clemson in Industrial Engineering and Anna will be a freshman at Virginia Tech—studying engineering, also. Davy and I are pretty proud! We will soon be empty "nesters" and looking forward to it." **Lynn Pettus and Winnie Brown King** wanted you to know: "Winnie and I got to together for dinner in Myrtle Beach recently. Winnie shared photos of her 25th wedding anniversary where she and Barry renewed their vows on the beach. She 'unpreserved' her wedding dress and wore for the ceremony! Go Winnie!" Deborah Stanford Harris shared "August 4th will be our 26th wedding anniversary. That's a big accomplishment in my book. My youngest, Brad, graduated from middle school June 6th and is officially a freshman. My daughter, Savannah, is a high school senior and has worked hard to reach a 3.8. We're hoping for a 4.0 at graduation! We will be spending most of our summer planning for college visits and entrance exams in the fall." **Adele McLean** says "I recently joined a boutique pricing consultancy firm out of Boston called Holden Advisors and I'm loving it! I facilitate workshops on negotiating with backbone and do pricing and profit transformation work for clients." Our thoughts are with **Adele McLean** and **Stephanie Train Kees** on the recent losses of their father and step-mother, respectively. Please connect with **Mary McDaniel Ridgeway** via Facebook and update your information!



1992

Stacy Brabo Childers and her husband, Travis, and have a farm in Gaffney. They raise and sell all-natural beef, pork, and eggs. She homeschools their children, Daniel(12) and Mary Anna(6). **Robbie Moseley Richards** has been living in Ohio for almost 7 years. Their son is 17 and their daughter is 12. She is working part-time at the University of Toledo. She says that they miss SC, "but OH has been a gracious home away from home!"

1993

Karen Corn Daugherty has owned Mill Street Florist in Inman, SC with her husband Shayne (Wofford Class of 1993) for 12 years. **Erin C. McGee** is a commercial bankruptcy attorney in Dallas, TX. She is also in the process of recording an album as catmcgee.com. **Leigh Anne Priest** has moved to Birmingham, AL and is working as a realtor. **Elizabeth Anne Strickland** is still teaching Special Ed in NYC. She has started taking Tae Kwon Do and is about to test for her green belt!. **Jane Manning Hyatt** is now the Executive Director of Sales for Chronicle Books in San Francisco, CA.

1994

The class of 1994 continues to be as productive and exciting as ever. **Martha White Waters** is an Assistant Principal in Spartanburg. Many other classmates including **Kelly Richardson Weekes**, **Susan Bean Candee**, **Alison Murphy Smock**, **Katie Abbott Kluttz**, **Mary Ames Plowden Voyles**, **Lisa Miller Conrath** and **Cathy Goodman Tate** are in education as well. Christie Frank Townes is even homeschooling her youngest! Quite a few classmates have been travelling the world. **Gray Tatum Covington** went to Haiti on a mission trip, **Cathy Binder Turner** just returned from Italy with her family, **Susanne Jones Norwood** went to Alaska with her family and **Ashley Gross Millinor** has been touring the East Coast with her sons. **Holly Miller Smith** moved back to the US after five years in the Bahamas, this time ending up in The Woodlands, TX. In New Orleans, **Danielle Tanguis** lives with her husband, Chuck, and is a member of a social aid group called the Pussyfooters. In addition to charity work, they march in several parades including Mardi Gras. **Clea Fields Schifmacher** has started a new job and is and the proud mother of Anna, a Converse Senior! **Dawn Barnard** has some news she will share with us next time, but for now we are happy to report that she has not broken any more bones since reunion.



1996

Dr. Jeanette Carol Williams writes: "I cannot believe that just two months ago we celebrated our twentieth college reunion! Close to forty members of the class of 1996 returned to Spartanburg for our weekend-long celebration. We enjoyed a post-barbecue celebration at my house on Friday night followed by our class dinner at the home of **Katherine Colburn Fulmer** on Saturday. Many, many thanks to those in Spartanburg and elsewhere who worked so hard to put this together—especially Katherine Fulmer for a beautiful setting and wonderful food. Huge kudos and thanks to those who helped me host on Friday: **Susie Sparrow Dekle, Beth Farmer Lancaster, Andrea Wyrosdick Creech, Evangeline Tucker English, and Emma Carmichael Harrill**. It takes a village! Thanks to all of you who came to town for the event and all I can say is everyone looks fabulous!" **Heather Stead Hummel** is still living just outside of Houston, Texas with her husband and two boys. She has just finished her first year of business with Heather Hummel Photography. **Cary Perkins** is an architect at McMillan Pazdan Smith in Greenville where she

is having a ball working on the new Rosalind S. Richardson Center for the Arts at Wofford. Her firm designed the new building for the Studio Art, Art History, and Theatre Departments and it's located on the site of the old fraternity houses, which were replaced with new Greek housing. This is Cary's 12th year working at MPS and she was recently made an Associate Principal in the firm.

1997

It was wonderful hearing from classmates near and far. Thank you for sharing your news. **Hadley Rowland** will be part of the founding faculty, Art Expert, at a new school opening this fall in Tysons Corner, VA. BASIS Independent McLean is a liberal arts STEM-focused school. Hadley will be launching the middle and high school art program as well as another AP art program. **Barbara Gehlmann** is no longer teaching. She's working for Carolina One Real Estate and is loving it! Her office is on Trolley Road in Summerville, SC. You can find her online at barbaragcoastalhomes.com or send her a note at barbara.gehlmann@carolinaone.com. **Julie Wittschen-Price** now works for the South Carolina School for the Deaf/Blind Outreach for the LowCountry. **Amy Garrett**

Lillis and her family now live in Granite Bay, CA, moving there to be closer to her husband's family. Amy is currently teaching 1st grade at Merryhill School in Roseville, CA. Her son TJ (5) will be attending kindergarten next August. In July, **Kim Varnadoe Kent** began her tenure as Chair of the Converse Board of Trustees. Life in Denver, CO is great for **Amanda Thomas Trask**. She reports that her kiddos are growing up too fast. **Kristin Bradshaw** and her wife **Kate Copeland**, welcomed daughter Olive Reglet Rosmarie Bradshaw to their family on April 14, 2016. All are healthy and happy, and joyous parents returned to work at Pacific Northwest College of Art in Portland, OR, in August. **Kate Barrett Mayes** is now a real estate agent with Keller Williams Asheville. Kate is loving her work and being able to spend time with her children.

2002

Sara Jane Nicholas Moran, her husband, Trey and their two children, Patrick(6) and Melanie (3), moved to Simpsonville, SC, in the Spring of 2016. **Sally York**, her husband, Drew, and their two children, Estelle(4) and Robin(2), moved to Stuttgart, Germany, in August of 2015. They are all picking up the



language well and Sally has already performed in two shows. **Leslie Wiggins Padro** left a journalism job at CNN in Atlanta and moved to San Juan, Puerto Rico in 2008. In 2009, she launched a new tourism concept in the Caribbean called "food tours" with Flavors of San Juan Food & Culture Tours. In 2015, she launched a culinary tour in the Caribbean island of Saint Maarten/Saint Martin (Flavors of St. Martin Food Tours). Reach out for alumni discounts if you're visiting these locations (leslie@globalflavorspr.com)! **LaShauna Mills Whitney**, her husband, and four children recently relocated back to Arizona after living in Michigan for the past four years. **Sarah Yarborough Dearbaugh**, her husband, Adam and their two children, Hannah (3) and Blake (1), relocated from Arizona to North Carolina in June 2016. Don't forget to check out our Facebook Group Converse College Class of 2002 for updates!

2003

Alison Turner is now working as an activity director at White Oak Spartanburg. Alison and **Tracy Huskey Eggleton (06')** recently worked together

with CARMA (Chicks Advocating Regional Music and Artists) to lead South by Southeast Springfest in April 2016. This music and arts festival was inspired by a movement of the same name in the Myrtle Beach area to raise funds to further music opportunities for youth while bringing local music lovers together. As two Converse and Pre-College (Lawson Academy) alumnae, they chose to donate to the Morgan Scholarship fund to foster student opportunities at the Lawson Academy of the Arts. **Andrea Ezell Elliot** is beginning her fourth year here at Converse as an instructor of Art Education. In addition to teaching Art Education classes she also supervises student teachers. **Valerie Brock Naglich** had a baby girl, Vivienne Henley, on February 16. On the same day Valerie gained a new title at work: deputy branch chief at CDC's Center for Global Health Division of Global HIV & TB Program Budget & Extramural Management Branch. **Chelsea Jaccard Kaufman** had a baby boy, Pierce Jaccard Kaufman, on March 2, 2016. Chelsea has also moved back to the states for a domestic assignment in Washington, DC which began on July 11th. **Rachel Hunt Donahue** also had a baby girl, Sydney Joy Donahue, born on June

27, 2016. **Melissia Heatherly Brannen** moved to a new position at Columbia College as the new Director of Multicultural Affairs and Community Resources and was also promoted to Assistant Dean of Students, supervising her old office, the Office of Student Activities. **Mary Carlisle** completed her M.F.A. in Visual Arts in June at Lesley University in Cambridge, MA. She looks forward to returning to Converse in August in her new role as Visiting Assistant Professor of Ceramics/Arts Management. Mary was also selected to participate in the Boston Young Contemporaries 2016 exhibition this summer in Boston, MA.

2004

Katie Mashburn began a new job as Vice President, Leadership Development Manager at United Community Banks, Inc, which have locations across the South, including Spartanburg. **Jordan Cain Ilderton** had a baby girl August 2015 and is due for another baby mid-October! She transferred her CPA license to SC and started her own bookkeeping business, Ilderton Bookkeeping, LLC. She currently lives in Charleston. **Laura Burgess Martin** continues work at Graham's Foundation (a non-profit that supports parents of premature infants) and is the Director of Parent Communication and Engagement. In June, she spoke on a parent panel entitled "Inside the Preemie Parent Perspective: Addressing the Special Needs of a Diverse Population" at the AWHONN conference (Association of Women's Health, Obstetrics, and Neonatal Nurses) in Dallas, TX. She and her husband, Scott, live outside Atlanta with their two children, Joseph(6) and Emily(3). **Kelly Wilson Hall** and husband Michael Hall (Wofford '02) welcomed their first daughter, Charlotte Taylor "Lottie" Hall on April 17, 2014 and are expecting their second daughter in December, 2016. They have recently moved to Dallas, Texas and Kelly is practicing law part-time. **Ashely Bailey** will be ending her career as Food Care Coach/Trainer for Sealed Air in March of 2017. She will be looking for a new career, hopefully in a much more creative field. **Danielle Martin Anders'** family recently moved to Alaska via a renovated school bus (Dora), driving from South Carolina to the country's largest state this past August. She homeschools her four children (ages 8, 6, 4, and 2). She recently took a job as the Director of a Classical Conversations community where she helps 50+ children and their families learn and implement classical learning methods.

Erin Poston Smith recently welcomed a perfectly adorable little girl named Lilly. **Genevieve Leaman Strickland** gave birth to her second boy, Walter Clark Strickland. **Rae Barnes** has four lovely children. (Claire - 1/17/09, Ellen - 5/15/11, Benjamin - 2/12/13 and Emily - 5/21/15) Rae confesses, her house is like a frat house, just without all the beer, and she is always the DD. **Rachel Jones Brown** and Robbie had a baby girl last month, Sarah Cogburn Brown "Sarah Burns" on May 25, 2016. They are absolutely in love with her. Big sister Parks is so proud! **Danielle Baker Gibbs** has kept three kids alive since her husband started and finished law school, and then got sucked into the vortex of practicing. **Kate Carr Sullivan** got married to Phillip Sullivan on September 12, 2015 and they had their second son, Owen Wayne Sullivan, on May 20th, 2016. She is dedicated to surrounding herself with beautiful men. **Tasha Tucker** is still living in New York, working as a Program Executive at Atlantic Philanthropies. She also finished 200-hr Yoga Training at the Shala House. **Rebecca Poston Creel** and husband Ellis had their first son, L.E. Francis Creel on April 7 of this year, and she was named by the Supreme Court as Mentor of the Year and has been named to the "Midlands Legal Elite" for family law!

2005

Holly Earnhardt Davis and husband, Murray, welcomed son, Griffin Luke Davis on November 23, 2015. **Elizabeth Shirk Howsare** and husband, Matt, welcomed Abigail Elisabeth Howsare to the family on December 30, 2015. **Danica Lance Franks** and husband, Tony, welcomed son, Ellington Zuri Franks, on October 14, 2015. They are living in Cham, Switzerland. **Karilyn West Parker** and husband, Derek, welcomed baby boy, Weston Ethan Parker, to the family on September 9, 2014. **Lindsey Parker McCall** and husband, Jared, welcomed daughter, Ann Harper McCall, on September 1, 2015. **Elizabeth Patterson Moloney** and husband, James, welcomed son, Edward Dixon Moloney, on April, 4, 2016. **Jackie Hobeika Schultz**, husband, Austin, and big brother, Ezra (4), welcomed baby boy Deacon to the family on September 9, 2015. **Andrea Weatherman** married Jonatan Kikkert in a small private ceremony in December, and celebrated with family and friends on May 14, 2016. **Danielle Beck Wegener** and husband Nick, welcomed baby girl Lilly Renee Wegener on April 18, 2016.

2006

The Class of 2006 had a great turn out at its 10 Year Reunion this past April! It was so great to see our classmates and relive some of our college memories. At Converse, old traditions die hard and we couldn't let the weekend come to a close without carrying out one of the old favorites – a good ole fashioned fountain toss. A little conspiring at the class dinner led to **Alma Morris Griffey, Ellen Godsall Escobar, Jennifer Wahl Settle, Melissa Meyer Hewitt, Brelan Riddle Montgomery, Mallory Beckett Daniel, Rebecca Gale, Karen Erskine, Kim Smith, Ashley Greenway Moss, Samantha Greenridge, Shayla Platts Glover, Sara Hollis McNabb, and Dani Alston Buchmueller** hiding together in the rose garden behind Gee to toss an engaged **Elizabeth Walker** into the fountain! It was the perfect way to end our class dinner, and our Reunion! We hope everyone can make it to our next reunion! Elizabeth Walker is taking a position with Coldwell Banker Residential Services in Charlotte, North Carolina. Having recently moved to Charlotte, she would love to meet up with any alumna in the area. Over the next two years, **Karen Erskine** will be teaching English in Thailand. **Mallory Beckett Daniel** has nominated to be a part of the 2016 St. Francis Forum Class, an initiative dedicated to providing education on healthcare trends, and fostering relationships between the Bon Secours St. Francis Health System and the community it serves. **Amanda Burgess George** gave birth to a daughter, Adalind Clara George on June 28th, 2016 at 2:50 am. She weighed 5 lbs 8 oz and was 18.75 inches long.

2007

Valerie Dowling started a new job as Director of the Women's Democracy Network (WDN) in January 2016. WDN is a global initiative of the International Republican Institute to increase women's political participation, leadership and representation in elected office around the world. She lives in Alexandria, Virginia. **Stacy Thrall Jones** married Daniel Jones in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on May 16, 2016. She and her husband reside in Duluth, Georgia. **Maddie Harlan Jurek** is currently residing in Duncan, SC with her husband, Kyle, and two children, Benjamin Ryan(5 1/2 years old), and Allison Claire(2 1/2 Years old). Maddie teaches at Dorman High School where



she was selected as the 2015 Dorman Freshman Campus Teacher of the Year and 2016 Spartanburg School District Six Teacher of the Year. She has also received a Master of Music (2010)- Boston University, Choral Music Education, National Board Certification Early Adolescence through Young Adult Choral Music (2013). **Lauren Mueller Nowak** married Benjamin Nowak on December 12, 2015. Lauren and her husband reside in Lake Lure, NC where she is the Program Director and Retreat Coordinator at Camp Lurecrest, a Christian youth summer camp. **Tina Rohner** is an Investment Specialist with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) based in Manila, Philippines. She is part of the Private Sector Financial Institutions Division which provides development impact capital to banks and microfinance institutions in developing Asia. She has also been selected as a Millennium Fellow by the Atlantic Council in Washington, DC.

2008

Leala Blakeley had her third baby, Gabriella Blakeley, on March 16, 2016, and is in her second year teaching with the Lawson Academy at Converse. **Rebe Moreno de Villanueva** is moving from Washington, DC to Guatemala for her husband's job. **Megan Mitchell** received her Master's Degree in Actuarial Science in May and recently passed her third actuarial exam. She is currently working at Aetna in Atlanta, GA. **Sarah Cappelmann** started as the educational audiologist for Spartanburg County in August 2015

and got married in September 2015. **Candice Sinclair Bishop** had her second daughter, Bryley, on March 2, 2016. She is in her fifth year at State Farm. **Melody McClellan** is getting married this October 2016. She is singing, teaching, fitness coaching, and doing some stand-up comedy. **Lauren Belue** is living on a 20-acre farm with her husband, two children, three dogs, and four donkeys. She is teaching special education. **Katherine Woodward** is getting married on April 8, 2017. She just bought her first house with her fiancé. She is teaching music lessons full-time in Greenville, singing around the area, and running her nutrition business. She also works as a blogger and stylist for an online fashion boutique. **Baye Williamson** is in her second year of veterinary neurology and neurosurgery at Cornell University. **Julia Turek Valentine** was married to her husband, Andrew, on July 1, 2016. In February 2017, she will be celebrating five years as Branch Coordinator for Mainscape, Inc. **Candy Kunze** finished her Doctorate in Physical Therapy in May and moved to Oregon from Virginia to start work at Therapeutic Associates-Sutherlin PT. On her latest backpacking trek, she traveled to Peru and hiked 57+ miles on the Salkantay trail up to Machu Picchu. **Maddie Boyd Clarke** married her husband, Justin, on June 25, 2016. She is currently pursuing a Masters in Library Science at Appalachian State University. **Jennifer Spexarth** had her second child, Adolf James, on May 17, 2016. **Sarah Young** celebrated the first anniversary in February 2016 of her private piano studio, Sarah



Y School of Music, LLC, in Washington, DC. **Elizabeth Martin** has moved to Charleston with her boyfriend, Brady. She has started a private therapy practice focused on couples facing fertility issues. **Katie Pooley Fridzon** has two children, Nate born February 13, 2014 and Abby born May 10, 2012. **Kincaid Nexton** is living in Greenville and working as a Nanny. **Lindsay Daniel** joined the Office of University Counsel at East Tennessee State University as the HIPAA Compliance Officer in May 2015. She got engaged in June 2016 to Matt Barr, and they are planning a wedding for Fall 2017. **Amanda Barton Keith** had a little girl, Elizabeth Jane, on June 5, 2013. **Kishni Neville** was promoted as the Instructional Coach for one of the local middle schools for Aiken County School District. **Audrey Jaccard** was married to Daniel Riddle August 29, 2015. They moved back to Knoxville, TN, in April 2016. Audrey has been a full-time, self-employed Potter for two years. **Amber Shearsmith** is a Special Education teacher at Byrnes High School in Duncan, SC. She was inducted into the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, an international society for women educators, and she currently serves as a chapter officer and state legislative chair. **Larkin Watson** was married on November 7, 2015. She is a Certified Financial Planner with Ameriprise Financial. **Liz Cooksey** just finished her Master's Plus 30 in history, and she has started her ninth year of teaching at Boiling Springs High School, where she gets to work with fellow classmate, **Casey Mathis**.

Stephanie Anders McSwain gave birth to her sweet daughter, Mollie Mae McSwain, on May 19, 2016. **Lydia Anthony** earned her Masters of Library and Information Science in May 2016 from the University of South Carolina. She is in her fifth year working for Converse as Web Content Manager.

2014

Laura Bryan Griswold is beginning her second year as an Admissions Counselor at Converse College. She has enjoyed getting to share all of the amazing things Converse has to offer with prospective students.

2015

Anica Jerkovic is currently working at Converse College as the Patron Services Associate. She works under the External Affairs and University Relations department. She has also recently joined the Junior League of Spartanburg.

2016

Mikhail Cox, was recently married to Jordan Cox. **Renee Hill**, celebrates her 8th year working at Converse College. **Sara Bowers** was married to Jason Bowers and accepted a teaching position at Simpsonville Elementary School. **Anna Robinson** is currently the Gift Management Coordinator at Converse College. She is also getting married in April 2017.





In Memoriam

1936

Billie Cole Wilson
January 5, 2016

1938

Mary Louise Greene Wooten
June 4, 2016

1939

Julia Easterling Guess
February 25, 2016

Sarah Jordan Meriwether
January 15, 2016

Lucile Wilson Norris
July 9, 2016

1941

Mary Jo Chreitzberg Brodie
March 29, 2016

Coan Turner Culler
March 21, 2016

Nell Holt Hawley
May 13, 2016

Emma Hale Hyatt
January 22, 2016

Sarah Chipley Timmons
March 14, 2016

1942

Alice Moore Harrelson
March 26, 2016

Harriette Purdy Williams
June 19, 2016

Jean Arthur McKown
January 7, 2016

Mary Ligon Hollingsworth
December 10, 2015

Rachel Tinsley
March 5, 2016

1944

Elizabeth Brunk Argo
February 23, 2016

Elizabeth Rodman Jones
January 29, 2016

Madge Lowe Prince
April 23, 2016

1945

Jane Davis Raley
March 7, 2016

Katherine Derring Thomas
February 3, 2016

Lorene Lyles Boger
January 3, 2016

Meredith Johnston Saunders
November 29, 2015

Sara Joyce Munden
March 17, 2016

1946

Evelyn Thorne Rogers
March 26, 2016

Shirley Shepherd Johnston
November 19, 2014

1947

Barbara Lowe Matthews
May 25, 2016

Doris Proffit Phillippi
March 11, 2016

1948

Eleanor H. "Skippy" Hale
June 17, 2016

Mrs. Earle D. McLean, Jr.
January 13, 2016

Robin Robins Watson
June 30, 2016

1949

Harriette Smythe Gantt
June 5, 2016

1950

Dr. George Truett Hollis
January 28, 2016

Lee Howard
June 3, 2016

1951

Betty Mauldin Holcombe
May 1, 2016

Carolyn Snow McAlister
April 20, 2016

1952

Betty Lou Worthington Armstrong
June 15, 2016

Peggy McArthur Robertson
May 28, 2016

Sara Eleanor Spires
June 21, 2016

1953

Alice Sylvester Cox
May 28, 2016

1956

Bennie McIntyre Farmer
May 23, 2016

1959

Constance Henderson Mathis
February 15, 2016

Jean Watkins Bay
March 8, 2016

1960

Virginia Dyson Hooper
March 5, 2013

Marion Miller Robinson
March 11, 2016

1962

Lera Gooch Stalnaker
October 31, 2015

Martha Harley Verner
February 16, 2016

1965

Alice Gentry Barnette
May 19, 2016

Roberta Lee Ball Rivers
October 3, 2009

1966

Dorothy Smoke Gressette
February 21, 2016

Jane Brigham Gamble
February 12, 2016

Margaret Goettee Brooks
October 16, 2015

1969

Caroline Folger
December 11, 2015

1970

Hetty Cunningham Newell
March 23, 2016

Dee Ownings Stone
July 24, 2016

1972

Catherine Miller Alley
December 11, 2015

1974

Mary Young Swink
April 27, 2016

1976

Marion Rogers Cox
January 25, 2016

Starr P. Land
December 9, 2015

1980

Karen Williams Kearse
April 2, 2016

1981

Julia Martin Hanes
January 26, 2016

1984

Wilma Ann Gardner
November 28, 2015

1990

Donald Allen Dean
May 22, 2016

1993

Nancy K. Varn
April 21, 2016

1994

Polly Thompson
April 10, 2016

1995

Michele Burns Fowler
February 24, 2016

2016

Hayley McGrail Maness Fust
June 19, 2016



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In Sympathy

1941

Mabel Culler, January 26, 2014,
daughter of Coan Turner Culler '41

1947

John James Miller, May 11, 2015,
husband of Opal Henderson Miller '47

1957

Achilles William "Bill" Vaseliades, February 21, 2016,
brother of Maria Vaseliades Papadopoulos '57

1959

Pleasant Theodore McCutchen, May 31, 2015,
husband of Sallie Murphey McCutchen '59

1961

George Wilson Goolsby, Jr., December 22, 2015,
husband of Nancy Patten Goolsby '61

1962

Harold McMillan Cannon, December 23, 2015,
husband of Marjorie Coddington Cannon '62

1965

Willie Bradford Moseley, December 24, 2015,
husband of Sabra McDaniel Moseley '65

1966

Mary Young Swink '66, April 27, 2016,
sister of Marian Young Howard '66

1970

Harvey L. Smith Sr., June 24, 2016
father of Sue Fan Smith Ferguson '70

Mary Young Swink '66, April 27, 2016,
sister of Florence Young Gilbert '70

1971

James W. Ivey, February 22, 2016,
father of Alanna Ivey Wildman '71

1973

Andrew James Sean Duncan, May 23, 2016,
husband of Susan Berry Duncan '73

Saunders Jones, May 20, 2016,
father of Emily Jones Rushing '73

1977

John Newton, May 9, 2016,
son of Harriet Wilson Newton '77

1978

Margaret E. Ellison, February 19, 2015,
sister of Rachelle Ellison Mickel '78

1979

Duff Green Porter, December 12, 2015,
father of Carol Porter Stephen '79

Esther Lee Nelligan, June 5, 2016,
mother of Jamie Nelligan Hardin '79

Fredrica Caroline Smith-Kenan, January 1, 2016,
mother of Julia Kenan Wilcox '79

Rev. Robert Cuttino, June 23, 2016,
father of Libby Cuttino Tilson '79

1981

Betty McLean Hopkins, April 9, 2016,
mother of Edith Hopkins Collins '81

Caroline Bishop, June 11, 2016,
niece of Meredith Carmichael Trask '81

1982

Lillie Mae Daves Roddy, February 20, 2016,
mother of Sharon Roddy Waters '82

1983

Caroline Bishop, June 11, 2016,
daughter of Lucia Ann Carmichael Bishop '83

Dr. Frederick Fields Ritsch Jr., May 4, 2016,
Father of Lise Ritsch Sundrla '83

Fredrica Caroline Smith-Kenan, January 1, 2016,
mother of Bet Kenan Hamilton '83

1984

Amy Pribyl Bruno, June 29, 2016,
sister of Elena Pribyl Rush '84

James Stephen Rush, April 4, 2016,
husband of Elena Pribyl Rush '84

John Carl Waters, April 11, 2016,
father of Karen Waters Thomas '84

Pleasant Theodore McCutchen, May 31, 2016,
father of Martha Lee McCutchen Cherry '84

1986

Mr. Staggs, January 28, 2016,
father of Julie Staggs '86

1987

Pleasant Theodore McCutchen, May 31, 2016,
father of Sallie McCutchen Free '87

1989

John Carl Waters, April 11, 2016,
father of Kelli Waters Taylor '89

1992

Fredrica Caroline Smith-Kenan, January 1, 2016,
mother of Mary Kenan Thames '92

Willie Bradford Moseley, December 24, 2015,
father of Robbie Moseley Richards '92

1995

Helen Jean Sanders Price, March 6, 2016,
grandmother of Austin Price Faulk '95

2003

John Carl Waters, April 11, 2016,
grandfather of Kristen Thomas Lambert '13

Wilma Jackson Martin, November 10, 2014,
great-grandmother of Brooke Rowell '13



A “Suite” Way to Cultivate Community

New Junior Housing Construction

Over the coming months, new suite-style junior housing will begin to rise on the east corridor of the back campus quad. The 120-student-bed facility will bring the next phase of Converse College’s Housing Master Plan to fruition.

The new three-story, 40,000-square-foot building will be located at the site of the former Morris Hall will open in fall 2017. It will contain six-bedroom suites centered around a living room, two bathrooms, a small dining area, and kitchenette. Its design aims to facilitate community at both smaller and larger scales throughout the building.

“One of Converse’s most distinctive aspects is our sense of community, with student connections forming and broadening within the residence halls they call home. This project will round out Converse’s inventory of living spaces designed to support each stage of the student experience.”

–President Krista Newkirk



Learn more! Converse.edu/JuniorHousing

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