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SUMMER 2017



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CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Leah Anderson
Jed Dearbury '03 MAT
Boone Hopkins
John Jeter
Julie Jones '99
Beth Lancaster '96
Deb Peluso '15

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Rasheeda Mickel

CLASS NOTES EDITORS

Jessica Eggimann '00
Yvonne Harper

PHOTOGRAPHY

John Byrum
Patrick Cox
Parish Group
Deb Peluso '15
Amy Wojc

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ROCK THE TOWER

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Converse Friends and Family,

As I wrap up my first year at Converse, I have been reflecting on what you – our students, faculty, staff, alumnae and friends – have taught me about this great institution.

Converse provides a very focused and personal learning environment for students. The connections they make here are deep, powerful and enduring. Students tell me how much they love our faculty and staff, that they learn more here than ever before, and that they appreciate the faculty's efforts to make lessons engaging and experiences meaningful.

Alumnae tell me how they developed friendships that have lasted a lifetime, how the connections they made at Converse open doors for them, and that they meet Converse graduates wherever they go, including in foreign countries, and always with a warm welcome. They take pride in the fact that their Converse degree is a mark of distinction.

Faculty members love working closely with students – watching them learn, grow and find their voice. Our faculty members who have taught in both coeducational environments and at Converse remark on how Converse students speak up more in class, are more active on campus, and grow and evolve to become competent leaders as students and alumnae.

I am honored to be part of this community of scholars, where students and faculty pursue excellence and collaborate in research, community service, study abroad programs and creative endeavors. Each member of our community understands that Converse is a place of principles and values, and they take pride in striving to meet our founder's ideal: "to see clearly, decide wisely, and to act justly." Converse cultivates

in students – and students foster in each other – academic excellence, personal honor, integrity, a duty to the betterment of community and humanity, and the understanding that they must go forth to influence others in a powerful and ethical manner. Our goal is to create continuously curious learners who lead through their passionate, principled, and responsible examples.

This magazine celebrates several of our College's successes. Among them is the powerful story of Ellen Bryant Voigt's career as a poet and how it was impacted by her Converse experience. I'm sure you will be roused by both Ellen's verse and her accomplishments. You will also see how alumni Julie Jones and Jed Dearybury are leveraging technology to innovate teaching methods in our undergraduate and graduate education programs. It is this kind of focus on excellence that resulted in two Converse alumnae, Erin Fox '14 and April Willard Purser '03, being selected as this year's South Carolina Teachers of the Year.

We hope you enjoy these stories and that you will seek opportunities to return to Converse or to create your own local Converse community.

Thank you for welcoming my family and me to Converse and for teaching us why Converse is so very special and beloved.



KRISTA L. NEWKIRK
PRESIDENT, CONVERSE COLLEGE

Regalia & Regaling



THE INAUGURATION OF OUR 10TH PRESIDENT

It was Founder's Day – April 21, 2017 – and the morning was punctuated by pomp and circumstance: robes, tassels and hoods; orchestral music; a Grand Marshal; the procession of 54 delegates from regional colleges and universities; greetings from elected officials and distinguished guests; and the presentation of the Symbols of Office.

The inauguration of Krista L. Newkirk as tenth president was a celebration unlike any other in recent Converse history. The blending of old and new traditions reflected the joining of past and future, and as day turned into evening, Converse turned from regalia to regaling.

INAUGURATION CEREMONY

Marking the milestone with a new tradition, the academic procession was led by a Grand Marshal

bearing the new Converse Mace. The mace represents shared governance between the faculty and president, and bears the name of each academic department along with the Founder's Ideal to "See clearly, decide wisely, and act justly." Designed and constructed by sculpture professor Greg Mueller, it is crafted of purple heart wood from Wilson Hall's original construction. Dr. Melissa Walker, George Dean Johnson, Jr. Professor of History, was nominated by her peers and selected by the president to serve as the College's first Grand Marshal.

As all four living past presidents of Converse processed into Twichell Auditorium, they were welcomed with rousing applause. It was a seminal moment for the College and for Presidents Betsy Fleming, Nancy Oliver Gray, Sandra Thomas and Ellen Wood Hall as they



participated in their first Converse inauguration other than their own.

Greetings and well-wishes were presented by Dr. Philip L. Dubois, Chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte; Trey Gowdy, United States Representative for South Carolina's Fourth Congressional District; Laura Stille, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Spartanburg; Jean Toal, Chief Justice (ret.) of the Supreme Court of the State of South Carolina; and representatives from Converse faculty, staff, students and alumnae.

Kimberly Varnadoe Kent '97, Chair of the Board of Trustees, conducted the investiture of Newkirk as tenth president, which was followed by the presentation of

the Symbols of Office. Kent presented the Converse Medallion, which bears the names of all Converse presidents and was designed by Mary Helen Garrison Dalton '46, and Dr. Jeff Barker, Provost, presented the Converse Mace.

"Today is about Converse College, the long and important journey in the lives of young women, and our future in continuing to serve as an educational experience that transforms young people and serves to better our community," President Newkirk said during her inaugural address. "It is with humility, joy and hope that I accept the leadership of this great college. I appreciate the trust of the Board of Trustees, the faculty and staff, the alumnae and students, and the community."

Newkirk also spoke to the College's duty to the community beyond its gates, asserting, "Converse was founded by, and has been sustained by, community support over many years. We will meet our obligation to this region by broadening our connections with local businesses and industry to develop the workforce they need and by help them retain talent in the Upstate to contribute to the region's economic development."

She offered heartfelt thanks to those who contributed to her personal and professional journeys. Among them, her husband, Lew Glenn, who "started as a good friend and confidante and grew to be the love of my life;" her sons, Conrad and Holden: "The greatest honor of my life is to be your mother, and my greatest hope is that I can instill in you a deep sense of being loved, worthy, and capable;" and her high school music teacher, Starla Taylor, who "like all truly great teachers, inspired, encouraged and challenged me, while helping me to put my teenage troubles into perspective."

Following the ceremony, guests enjoyed lunch on the front lawn with the traditional displays of Dexter Edgar Converse's favorite dessert, strawberries and cream.

INAUGURAL BALL DINNER & THE DEXTER EDGAR CONVERSE AWARD

Converse hosted our most generous supporters, community leaders, and friends and family of President Newkirk for a dinner on the evening of the inauguration. The event included presentation

of the Dexter Edgar Converse Award, the College's highest honor, recognizing those who have given extraordinarily of their time, energy and treasure. Past honorees present were Don Bain, Bill Barnet, Mary Rainey Belser '69, George and Susan Phifer "Susu" '65 Johnson, Mary Lib Spillers Hamilton '57, and Walter and Betty James '72 Montgomery.

This year's award was presented to Tom Hannah, a steadfast champion for Converse whose vision and leadership helped transform the College over the last two decades. Hannah served on the Board of Trustees for 16 years, including one term as chairman. His leadership is marked by his demand for excellence and his unwavering commitment to strengthening the College's foundation. In presenting the award, President Newkirk expressed, "Tom, we are thankful that you have dedicated so much of your life in support of Converse College. You are a role model for all who admire and benefit from your love of this institution!"

DANCING ON THE BACK LAWN

Following dinner, the Converse community joined together with dinner guests for an evening of dancing on the back lawn. Held under a sparkling tent streaming with colorful light, it was the ultimate party for all ages thanks to the energetic sounds and eye-catching showmanship of the band Jessie's Girls. The show was produced by Converse music business students as the project for their spring term course.





“Your success as a college president will be measured by the good that is done when each student takes full advantage of the gift that is a college education and a Converse College degree. There can be no higher calling, and I know of no one more ready to do it.”

Dr. Philip L. Dubois

Chancellor, University of North Carolina at Charlotte



“What better way to celebrate the Converse College legacy of developing women who lead and effect positive change in their professions, their communities and their families than to install this first-rank achiever who embraces her status as a role model by rolling up her sleeves every day to labor in the trenches.”

Jean Toal, Chief Justice (Ret.),
Supreme Court of the State of South Carolina









"We, your alumnae, look
boldly to the future and the



work we will do side-by-side...
We pledge to help you grow
the rich legacy of Converse,
for we know we all share
in this great responsibility
and honor."

Caroline Watts Morris '64

President, Converse College Alumnae Association



“As president, you are entrusted with the safekeeping of my sisters – past, present, and future. . . You join a sisterhood that spans the globe and transcends generations. . . We will support you and the Converse students of tomorrow with our time, with our resources, with our voices and actions, and through the connections we make in the world beyond Converse. And we will come home again, and again, to this place of joy.”

Ariel Wingard '17

President, 2016-2017 Student Government Association



SEE MORE...
Converse.edu/InaugurationVideo



An ear for poetry

BY JOHN JETER

Aristotle used roughly 14,000 words for his *Poetics*. This article runs 500 words about poetics, specifically the works of **ELLEN BRYANT VOIGT '64**, whose trenchant poems earned her a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship. Mrs. Voigt could distill this entire story into a tweet.

The same way a jeweler chooses only the finest diamonds for each ring, Mrs. Voigt selects and arranges

every word with “liquid precision,” as *Publishers Weekly* says; the bible of the book business echoes critics who, like the august *Kenyon Review* literary magazine, hail the 74-year-old Virginia native as the “quintessential American elegist.”

In turn, Mrs. Voigt offers “my sincere acknowledgment to Converse for its importance in my life and professional success.” Indeed, were it not for a

scholarship that sent her toward music education, she might not have discovered poetry. It was at Converse where a friend introduced her to lyrical icons Rainer Maria Rilke and E.E. Cummings.

Her most recent success: the MacArthur “genius grant,” which she won in 2015 along with 23 other creative luminaries, who received \$625,000 each, no strings attached. Honorees are lauded for “pushing the boundaries of their fields and improving our world in imaginative, unexpected ways.”

As Mrs. Voigt said to a public radio station in Vermont, where she and her husband, Fran, live, music influences her writing entirely (her word). “I primarily write by my ear, I write by sound first.” “Poetry,” she said, “does its work through *music*.”

Likewise, her verses reflect “her restless search for the means to unite two artistic impulses: to sing and to tell stories,” *The Atlantic* wrote.

“The most important things Converse provided me were a liberal arts education and a context small enough for me to pursue it in an extremely roundabout way,” she says. “Like many, if not most, 16-year-olds, I didn’t know myself or the world sufficiently to make wise choices; in my case, this was additionally complicated by a life thus far defined and absorbed in music, a willful temperament, and economic circumstances.”

As for said temperament, she describes herself nowadays as cantankerous (her word). In her eighth

“I primarily write by ear,
I write by sound first.
Poetry does its work
through music.”

and latest volume, *Headwaters*, the poem, “Geese,” explains:

*there is no cure for temperament it's how
we recognize ourselves*

That’s just one example illustrating not only her economy of words, but her evolution toward eschewing punctuation, even capitalization—“as though she has burst in on each poem mid-thought,” as *Publishers Weekly* describes her constructions.

But it’s clear, in her writing and in corresponding with her, that she’s rarely mid-anything, especially relentless learning.

“In pretty much all of my work, and especially in *Headwaters*, I’ve been intent on trying to learn whatever it’s possible to learn about the inherent nature of humans, animals, individuals, and ‘collectives,’ whether families and neighborhoods, tribes, and colonies.”

In other words, her pen sings in words, verses, and even spaces, composing a conservatory of works, each poem a note rising from the music of her alma mater.

John Jeter, contributing writer, is an adjunct professor in Converse’s new Music Business & Technology Certificate program and received the 2017 Above and Beyond Award for service to students. He is also a journalist and novelist. Commenting on his interview with Voigt for this article, he shared, “A writer asking another writer to write about her is akin to a serious cellist asking to join Yo-Yo Ma on stage. I’m a journalist and Ms. Voigt is a poet and writer, which, to me, is kind of like the difference between a washboard player and a classical pianist. But she was as generous with me as I imagine Yo-Yo Ma is with a similarly starstruck aspirant.”

“The friendship, the camaraderie, and the love that you feel from the faculty and everybody there—it’s been a stepping stone for all of us.”

REIGN OF

RIEHNINS

During her last four years at Converse, legacy student **CARSON REHN '17** bathed elephants, groomed horses and handled sharks and stingrays.

A legacy student is the daughter or granddaughter of a Converse alumna. Carson is what you might call a double-legacy. Her mother, Evelyn Matthews Rehn, graduated in 1992, and her grandmother, Fran Flournoy Matthews, attended Converse for two years as a member of the Class of 1965. Carson is also a double major, so for many reasons she expected graduation to be double-special.

The tradition is for a Converse legacy student to be hooded by her family member who is an alumna. “They said only one person could help with the hooding, but I have two degrees and two family members, so I asked if it were possible for them both to do it,” Carson says.

She received an enthusiastic yes, that each would drape her with regalia – one marking her Bachelor of Science in Biology and the other her Bachelor of Arts in German Studies.

“It was really awesome that both could participate,” Carson says, “That made it much more special.”

Legacy students belong to a special breed. In fact, for the last four years Carson has been the recipient of a scholarship which recognizes descendants of an alumna or a student

whose sister, aunt, or stepmother attended Converse. The scholarship was established in 2002 by the Kinney Family Scholarship Endowment in memory of the family’s great-grandmother Florence Alexandria McLeod Kinney, Class of 1896; great-aunt Annie Florence Kinney ’28; and in honor of Elisabeth Kinney McNiel ’89.

As a newly-minted graduate, this daughter of a military family that moved all over the world is off again, this time to Edinburgh, Scotland, where she will attend veterinary school at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.

“This is the perfect story of voice, value, and vision,” says Marianna MacIntyre ’81, who took Carson under her wing the moment Carson arrived on campus from Stuttgart, Germany, where her father, a U.S. Army colonel, had been stationed. “Her grandmother had the vision and used her voice to have her daughter come here, and her daughter did the same, because they recognized the lifelong value of a Converse education.”

Evelyn Rehn remembers her mother singing the Alma



Mater—*Watching her children down through the years—* whenever the family drove by Spartanburg. Of the legacy she shares with Carson, Evelyn says:

“Being in an all female learning environment makes strong females. It gives us the confidence to go on and be successful adults. The friendship, the camaraderie, and the love that you feel from the faculty and everybody there—it’s been a stepping stone for all of us.”



Carson’s stepping stones at Converse have included working at an elephant preserve in Chiang Mai, Thailand; participating in an externship at an equine hospital in Tryon, NC; and studying at a marine academy in Clearwater, FL. She was also captain of the Valkyries equestrian team.

Making Converse the place to grow and explore her passions was a choice Carson made all on her own.

“Even though my mother and grandmother attended Converse, it was my own decision,” she says. “I decided to come to Converse because I wanted to, but now it’s something we all share. It’s really nice to have that kind of connection, like a keep-it-in-the-family kind of thing. And it’s cool to think that, one day, my daughter could go to Converse.”



READING UP ON LEAD

It's captivating to read a baby's face, and it's even more captivating to help a baby come face-to-face with reading. That's what four Converse students experienced during a deeply immersive 10-week internship piloted by Converse and the Carolinas chapter of the national organization, Reach Out and Read. It is the first Reach Out and Read internship of its kind in the country.

"The experience broadened my outlook, introducing new perspectives and transferable skills for my field," says Illinois junior Elaina Smith, a deaf education major who was selected for the program.

The idea was conceived during a literacy summit Converse hosted for Reach Out and Read in 2016. The summit brought together Dr. Terrell Tracy, who oversees Converse's Educational Specialist in Literary degree program, with

Callee Boulware, executive director of Reach Out and Read Carolinas. "We were just brainstorming together," Boulware says. "We felt like there's a strong culture around leadership development at Converse."

Development is the entire concept behind the nonprofit that started in 1989 in Boston. Reach Out and Read primarily serves low-income families and children from birth to age 5.

"Families go to the doctor for many years before entering the school system," says Dr. Julie Jones, Director of Teacher Education and Student Teaching at Converse. "If we can model those best reading practices, starting in the pediatrician's office, then parents are going to do it at home."

Says Boulware, "What Reach Out and Read wants to accomplish with Converse is to educate and activate young up-and-coming advocates and leaders for early childhood.



ADERSHIP

“What Reach Out and Read wants to accomplish with Converse is to educate and activate young up-and-coming advocates and leaders for early childhood.”

This is important if you're going to be a teacher, and it also positively impacts everything in your community.”

Thanks to an alumna's \$10,000 grant, the four interns earn a stipend, plus mileage. They're deployed to four Spartanburg-area clinics where they are fully engaged with Reach Out and Read, the community, and the pediatrics practices.

“When we talk to providers about what we can help them with,” Elaina says, “it's interesting that they're so willing to take in information from juniors in college. They went to medical school, and they've been in practice. It's quite surreal that I should give knowledge to my provider, who says, 'Yeah, let's do that.' I'm, like, 'Okay, wow.'”

“That is so cool,” says Dr. Tracy, who notes that each student had to report to a Converse audience at semester's end. “I'm excited for these four women.”

So are they.

Says Chiara Mattamira, a junior from Milan, Italy, who is double majoring in mathematics and chemistry: “Out of all I have gained from this internship, I believe the most valuable was learning about the true meaning of networking, collaboration, and collective impact. I have no doubt that no matter what career path I will choose, those life lessons will be helpful and profitable.”

CREATIVITY THAT WORKS: TURNING PASSION IN

BY **BOONE HOPKINS**

On a chilly evening last December, students from the School of the Arts (SOA) were heating up the live music scene in Spartanburg. With an eclectic set list including violin sonatas, Beatles covers, and quirky choreography set to Rodgers & Hammerstein lyrics, the show was enthusiastically received by its Converse audience - along with many astonished regulars at the Hub City Tap House.

Exploring new opportunities for audience engagement and blazing new trails in the arts is the central focus of the SOA's new Creativity that Works initiative. Now in its second year, this approach parlays arts talent into lucrative arts careers and is already producing excellent results.

Developed by SOA faculty to compliment the in-depth study in each arts discipline that has long been the hallmark of a Converse degree, Creativity that Works incorporates exciting new classes, degree programs, and opportunities for students in art, theatre and music to shine. With an emphasis on the soft skills that ultimately help an aspiring actress, musician, or artist get a gig, the SOA faculty work on professionalization from the moment a student arrives on campus.

Anastacia Hutchinson, who is developing an individualized major in Theatre, English and Special Education, discovered new prospects for her future through the Arts Foundations courses that define the SOA's first year of study.

"Interdisciplinary Foundations gave me the chance to collaborate with other arts majors, refine my personal brand, and map out my goals in social advocacy and arts leadership," she said. "I was placed in an awesome 'pod' with studio art and music majors in which we collaborated on real-life projects that provided diverse, creative perspectives. We learned how other artists

think, and this made me think differently about my own work. Seeing things differently is what makes a great performer, and I am definitely developing that skill." In the second phase of the foundations coursework, Hutchinson and her peers learn from alumnae and other artists with successful careers in music, art, theatre and dance.

Creativity that Works also has a strong experiential learning component to help students shape their aesthetic as creators, including international study travel, faculty-mentored research and internships in the field that they aim to enter.

Dr. Susanne Gunter, Chair of the Department of Art & Design, observes, "Working with potential employers provides valuable experience and builds resumes toward acquiring future work. Every student has opportunities for internships, clinical or teaching experiences, depending upon the degree program. We are forging community partnerships with businesses, agencies and institutions across the Upstate and beyond."

Last summer, Caitlin Conneely '18 interned at the Tryon Fine Arts Center, where she worked closely

"Seeing things differently is what makes a great performer, and I am definitely developing that skill."

NTO A PROFESSION



with marketing manager and Converse alumna Michelle Fleming '13. "I challenged myself to explore outside of my traditional area, so I worked in the organization's administration rather than the technical/theatrical area," she said. Her experiences ranged from researching information, writing press releases and updating social media, to supporting the planning and execution for fundraising events and community outreach programs like a juried art competition. "I now have a better understanding of how arts organizations run, what they need in order to be effective, and how they can work with their community and use volunteers to enhance their events and program development. This internship helped me get my foot in the door and understand how to use my skills in the arts to help build a better community."

As for our live monthly music series at the Hub City Tap House, this seemingly odd approach of taking music students to a pub has proven to be an incredibly rich learning lab. "Arts on Tap," coordinated by Dr.

Chris Vaneman, Head of the Petrie School of Music, is an avenue for reaching out to find new audiences. "Every day it gets easier for people to sequester themselves in front of their computer screens and mainline their own personal Netflix queue," Vaneman says. "Live performing arts get people together and create community; they build shared experiences and life-giving connections among people. We artists have to be willing and able to go where the people are and give them those experiences. By mixing up music styles and genres, we give audiences the chance to get to know stuff that's outside of their own personal zones of familiarity, and that's really exciting."

As amplifiers, microphones, and lighting instruments are taken down at the Hub City Tap House and students celebrate a great set, the SOA faculty enjoy knowing these students are prepared to deal with far more than just stage fright. Converse students are ready to turn their passion into their profession.

» Learn more! Converse.edu/Arts

DR. BOONE HOPKINS is Dean of the School of the Arts and Associate Professor of Theatre in the Department of Theatre & Dance. His research interests include arts leadership, acting theory, and the history of directing for the stage. He is most interested in how art, music and theatre are made, including the ways in which communication and influence move between artists during the creative process.



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EDUCATORS EMPOWERING EDUCATORS

BY DR. JULIE JONES AND JED DEARYBURY



K-12 classrooms are a changing entity. Pen pals now come in the form of face-to-face video conferences. Shared Google docs are commonplace, extending learning beyond the traditional classroom schedule. Field trips occur in virtual reality, allowing students to visit places they could never have experienced before. Today's learning is an engaging experience, rather than a passive one.

As the education profession rapidly evolves, a Converse degree continues to be recognized as a mark of innovation by school leaders across the nation. Converse is equipping future educators to not only meet the demands of teaching in the 21st century, but also to lead the way among their peers. Our faculty provide insight on the current trends in education – from digital technology to arts integration to the globally connected classroom – and center their teaching around five key areas: creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, communication and community.

CREATIVITY

How can tin foil, straws, sticky notes, colored tape, Play-doh, costumes and more make children's learning engaging? Come visit Carmichael Hall to see arts-infused instruction in action. Integrating the arts into the general curriculum is a core component of Converse teacher preparation. Our model classroom is complete

with its very own piano and students can be seen learning about current educational trends by sculpting, singing and dancing.

"Arts make the learning stick," says Jed Dearybury. "Years ago I wrote a jingle to help students learn the seven continents. Ten years later, students are still singing it to remember where in the world they are!"

In today's classroom, students have instant access to all kinds of facts via online searches. It's important that they learn what to do with that knowledge. Where are ideas born? Creativity is the path to innovation for all learners.

COLLABORATION

Converse education students are connecting with other students across the globe – in Iowa, Texas, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Ireland, Kenya, India and Australia – for a variety of collaborative projects. They can often be found Skyping with authors rather than reading their texts in isolation. Tours of national parks, museums, and animal conservatories spark ideas for virtual field



trips they can take into local public schools.

Embracing the online community enables Converse preservice teachers to learn from professional education circles well beyond our campus.

“When my Converse students collaborated with 4th grade bloggers in the Chicago area, the power of academic feedback became real. All the theory they read about was made authentic with this connection,” says Dr. Julie Jones.

CRITICAL THINKING

Teaching in the 21st century extends far beyond the basic subjects. Teachers must provide students with unique experiences to cultivate their critical-thinking abilities. Converse professors model a variety of innovative instruction strategies.

Breakout EDU allows students to work collaboratively, solving a series of critical thinking puzzles to open a locked box. Makerspace is an opportunity to utilize engineering skills in a collaborative work space –

learning, exploring, making and sharing – using high tech and no tech tools. Genius hour is another method of fostering critical thinking by bringing individual passions to student-led projects.

Through innovative strategies such as these, Converse students are challenged to develop their own cognitive skills and gain a strong pedagogical understanding of what 21st century teaching should be.

COMMUNICATION

The education profession is witnessing the rise of teacher-leaders thanks to a growing collaborative movement on social media. Twitter, Google Plus, and Skype are a few of the platforms on which modern educators are reaching out for professional development, independently seeking inspiration and solutions with peer professionals through the building of a personal learning network (PLN).

Converse students and alumni collaborate online using the hashtag #conversechat. This platform allows them to connect with one another around the clock, sharing

innovation in their classrooms. These connections strengthen the power of mentorship and networking across the Converse sisterhood.

COMMUNITY

Ongoing professional development is vital to the success of educators. Converse provides both current students and teachers across the region with engaging, relevant experiences to strengthen their classrooms. In partnership with the Palmetto State Teachers Association, Converse hosts an Edcamp – a “nonconference” experience for educators by educators. This hands-on, innovative training is open to teachers across the Upstate of South Carolina as well as to Converse students. EdCamp is a community effort, supported by local businesses and national partners such as mindSpark Learning, Lily Sarah Grace, and Discovery Place EDU.

The Converse Master Series is another new avenue of opportunity, featuring alumni who are dynamic movers and shakers in the field. These alumni come to campus to share teaching wisdom, knowledge and best practice with current students. The connections that are forged provide many of our pre-service teachers with mentors as they enter the classroom. The Masters Series will open to all Converse alumni as professional development workshop experiences beginning in Fall 2017.

» Learn more! Converse.edu/Education

Dr. Julie Jones is Director for Teacher Education and Student Teaching at Converse College. She maintains an active research agenda with interests including instructional technology and validated instructional practices for the general program as well as students who are at-risk. She is the editor of the Teacher Education Journal of South Carolina.

Jed Dearybury is Director of Professional Development & Communications for The Palmetto State Teachers Association and an adjunct professor in the Converse Education Department. Jed has been recognized nationally multiple times for his unique teaching ability and also serves as a consultant for two education nonprofits, Lily Sarah Grace, and mindSpark Learning.

Follow them on Twitter @JuliePJones and @mrdearybury1.



TWO ALUMNAE NAMED SC TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Whether you are an aspiring teacher or a classroom veteran, when you enroll in our education programs at Converse, you join a legacy of award-winning teachers and school administrators.

Erin Fox '14, an English teacher and cross country coach at Gaffney High School, was named 2018 SC Teacher of the Year. Pam Flynn '97 was also named as a finalist for the award. Fox (pictured above with SC Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman) earned her MEd in Gifted Education, and Flynn earned her EdS in Administration & Supervision from Converse.

April Willard Purser '03 was named SC Public Charter School Teacher of the Year. Purser teaches at High Point Academy in Spartanburg and graduated from Converse with a degree in elementary education.

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POSSIBILITIES.

CONVERSE
Annual Fund

**THE ANNUAL FUND POWERS
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS,
SCHOLARSHIPS, ATHLETICS,
AND STUDENT LIFE.**

**Our student
enrollment
surged over the
past decade.**

**More than half
of Annual Fund
dollars become
scholarships.**

CAN WE
COUNT YOU IN?

Converse.edu/give



To meet demand,
we doubled this
year's goal to
\$3 million.

WITH YOUR SUPPORT EVERY YEAR
**THERE'S NO LIMIT
TO WHAT WE
CAN ACHIEVE.**

A Modern-Day Vision for Mickel Library

Funded by an anonymous donor, Converse College's Mickel Library is undergoing an extensive, multi-phase makeover. The project has been underway since late 2016 and will transform the first and second floors over the next year.

"In recent years, academic libraries have been providing learning areas where students can work collaboratively on group assignments or projects, while continuing to support traditional study and research," said Wade Woodward, Director of the Mickel Library. "Such facilities typically include a variety of computer workstations, portable whiteboards, conference rooms, and seating configurations. This is what we set out to accomplish at Converse."

The main floor lobby area is the first section to get a face-lift. A recent grant proposal hopes to renovate five additional areas, including adding a multimedia computer room to the second floor, complete with Mac computers suitable for video editing.

New student collaboration areas and contemporary study spaces are now complete on the first floor, incorporating innovative designs and current technology to meet the evolving academic needs of students and faculty.

AN EVOLUTION SINCE 1889

Originally housed in two rooms in Wilson Hall, the library had a few 'homes' before it finally settled into a permanent residence on the southwest corner of campus. In 1904, a \$10,000 grant from Andrew Carnegie allowed for the construction of a separate building that held 25,000 volumes, four study rooms, and a general reading room. Today, Carnegie Hall houses the offices of Human Resources, Business and Finance, and Student Billing. In the 1940's, funds



were raised to build Gwathmey Library. The 20,000 square-foot facility was one of the first libraries built at a women's college following World War II. During the 1980's, an addition was built onto Gwathmey, doubling the size and shelving capacity of the building and adding numerous study carrels, music listening rooms and a student lounge. The library was renamed for Buck and Minor Mickel, the primary donors of this massive renovation.

Today, Mickel Library's mission is to provide high-quality information resources and to support the development of study and research skills in our rapidly-evolving information environment. Electronic holdings include access to more than 40,000 full text journals and upwards of 252,000 eBooks.

REIMAGINING THE LIBRARY OF TODAY

In early 2016, a student focus group was convened to help establish a modern-day vision for Mickel Library. Students expressed their desire for a more welcoming,



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technologically-supportive library environment with small group study spaces that would allow for interaction without disturbing other library patrons.

Dr. Emily Harbin '99, Director of the Writing Center and Assistant Professor of English, contributed extensive research on trends in library design. "Modern libraries serve as a dynamic space where students access information, use technology to create new products with that information, and work collaboratively," she said. "We started with the lobby so that it would send the message immediately to students and visitors that Mickel Library is changing for the better."

Just inside the front entrance, where massive shelves of reference books and heavy wooden tables once lived, students are greeted by a welcoming, bright workspace housing comfortable chairs with flip-up desks, rolling

dry-erase boards and group-friendly work rooms. Wider computer tables give them ample room to spread out materials and work alongside one another.

Students have responded enthusiastically, and library staff have seen a dramatic increase in their use of the new collaboration area.

Mickel Library is seeking funds to continue updating the main and second floors with flexible study spaces and technology upgrades. Lauren Ward, Converse's Bequest and Research Manager, said everyone can make a difference, no matter the size of their gift. "A group of classmates could give jointly to support an aspect of the project and make a significant impact on the lives of the students here at Converse."

» Learn more! [Converse.edu/LibraryUpdate](https://converse.edu/LibraryUpdate)

#ROCKTHETOWER

#RockTheTower Stats

- » **\$80,714** in 24 Hours
- » **421** Gifts Received
- » **44%** Faculty/Staff Participation
- » **15,391** Twitter Impressions**
- » **33,245** Facebook Impressions*
- » **2,901** Facebook Comments, Likes and Shares*
- » Class of **1959**: Top in Gifts Generated
- » Class of **1975, 1998** and **2004**: Tied for Top in Participation

*Combined total between Converse College and the Converse College Alumnae Association Facebook pages

** Combined total between Converse College and the Converse College Alumnae Association Twitter pages

CONVERSE ROCKED THE TOWER! On November 10, 2016, Converse alumnae, faculty, staff and students rallied together for a one-day fundraising blitz, with 421 gifts pouring in for a total of \$80,714. For 24 hours, Converse friends and families lit up social media by expressing their devotion and challenging one another to join in. Homages came in from around the world, from right here on campus, to India, to Morocco. It was 1889 Week, and while students on campus wore their ears, horns and tails, alumnae across the globe supported their sisters by putting on purple and gold, making their gift, and snapping a selfie with their "Count Me In!" envelope.

Here are a few of our favorite alumnae posts. Follow the hashtag [#RockTheTower](#) for more!

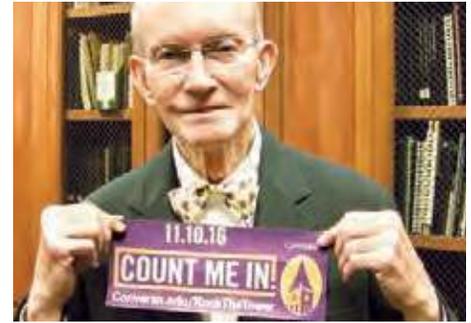
421
GIFTS RECEIVED
\$80,714
GENERATED FOR THE
1ST ANNUAL ROCK THE TOWER





Because I couldn't have gone to Converse without scholarships. Because – now more than ever – we need strong, educated women. Because my life would be so much poorer without the friends I made there 20-odd years ago.

Katie Proctor '97



4 minutes and 36 seconds – that's as long as it took to give a gift that can impact generations. I am forever thankful to have attended a school dedicated to challenging, supporting and empowering women. #RockTheTower #VoiceValueVision

Brooke Rowell '13

Perhaps only at a small liberal arts college can you point to deep, life-long relationships with faculty and administrators. Sitting in their classrooms or around their kitchen tables, I learned who I was through the power of these relationships.

Katie Landon Fitch '02



I'm unbelievably proud to be a graduate of this women's college and believe that now more than ever, women and girls deserve the opportunities Converse provides. #CountMeIn

Catherine Parler '16



Converse is where I found my voice and began to advocate for the communities I continue to serve today. I am proud to be a part of a strong family of women, who came before and continue to come after me. She supported me, so I support her. Count me in!

Lainie Sowell '13

BE ON THE LOOK OUT FOR ROCK THE TOWER 2018!

A NEW CREW IS IN TOWN: Meet The Philanthropy and



Converse welcomes several new team members who bring an enthusiastic commitment to engaging alumnae, donors and friends in the life of the College. They look forward to helping you find ways to connect with the mission and vision of Converse based on your individual interests. Learn more! Converse.edu/Team.

(Top Row from L-R): Krista Bofill, Vice President for Institutional Advancement; Mike Kennedy, Assistant Vice President for Philanthropy; Gina Miller, Assistant Director for Philanthropy; Alicia Parsons, Director for Philanthropy; Lauren Ward, Bequest and Research Manager; and Jessica Eggimann '00, Director of Alumnae and Advisory Boards

(Bottom Row from L- R): Anna French '16, Gift Management Coordinator; Yvonne Harper, Director of Donor Relations and Special Events; Louise Unti, Annual Fund Coordinator; and Lisa Marchi, Director of Advancement Services

Alumnae Relations Team



MEET YOUR NEW ALUMNAE DIRECTOR

Inspired by her unwavering passion for the advancement of women and dedication to the Converse community, Converse named Jessica G. Eggimann '00 as Director of Alumnae Relations and Advisory Boards in April. Eggimann began her new role the week of President Newkirk's inauguration, and the exciting pace has continued ever since!

After more than 13 years in key policy and administrative roles on Capitol Hill and in the private sector, Eggimann comes home to her alma mater from Washington D.C., where she served as Chief Clerk and Legislative Coordinator for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"We are delighted that Jessica has returned to Converse and has joined our team as the Director of Alumnae Relations and Advisory Boards," said President Krista Newkirk. "Her impressive experience and her knowledge of Converse and our alumnae will make her an effective advocate as she works to keep our alumnae connected and engaged."

Eggimann will oversee the development of Converse Alumnae Chapters and serve as the College's liaison to the Alumnae

Association Board and Board of Visitors. She will also be instrumental in planning Converse's exciting new stay-on-campus, summertime Reunion Weekend.

After completing her Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Spanish, Eggimann devoted four years to the Converse Admissions team, rising to the level of Assistant Director before heeding a call to journey up the Eastern seaboard to pursue a career in the nation's capitol. In 2014, she joined the Converse College Board of Visitors, serving on the Career Development Committee.

Grateful for the opportunity to return to Converse, her "home" in the South, Eggimann looks forward to nurturing the Converse alumni network and reconnecting with Valkyries nationwide.

"I am incredibly excited about immersing myself in the alumnae community and reconnecting with the Converse sisterhood. Preparing for this new role and being back on campus has reminded me of my own Converse experiences - the friendships I made, the leadership roles I assumed, the relationships that were developed with professors - they all shaped me into the woman I am today," said Eggimann.

» Learn more! Converse.edu/Team



Dear Converse Sisters,

The inauguration of a new president. A new “summer camp,” stay-on-campus Reunion format. A new alumnae director. A new 120-student-bed residence hall that opens its doors this fall. A new vision and new faces in Institutional Advancement.

As you have read on every page of this gorgeous publication, 2017 is off to a monumental year. New leadership, inspiration and spirit - Converse College is alive with NEW energy!

The College has big goals as we prepare for the 2017-2018 academic year: increase enrollment to over 365 undergraduate students; enroll 20 Converse International School students; and double the Converse Annual Fund goal to \$3 Million, just to name a few.

YOUR Converse College Alumnae Association remains dedicated to making higher education accessible for all young women with our CARRE (Converse Alumnae Recruitment and Retention Effort) Committee. We are also committed to maintaining the strength of the sisterhood with post-graduate professional development and networking with the TAPP (Touching Alumnae Peer-to-Peer) Committee.

Our alumnae partnerships and gifts are vital to opening the doors of Converse to deserving young women. During 2016-2017, 624 students received over \$3.3 million in Converse scholarships. When you give, you join the “power of many,” and your impact is truly transformative. Gifts of every level make a difference.

Converse empowered YOU to lead and the most powerful leadership tool you have is your own personal example. Inspire new generations...share your talents and gifts with your Alma Mater.

Much love to all of you and thank you for all that you do for Converse.

Caroline

CAROLINE WATTS MORRIS '64
PRESIDENT, CONVERSE COLLEGE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

2017-2018 Alumnae Association Board

Angela Hansil Bain '81
Victoria Ball '14
Liz Harkins Biosca '64
Rachel Bishop '99
Sarah Mercer Chatel '79
Amanda Cartwright Conschafter '04
Michelle Harris Dennis '98

Diane S. Drake '89
Stinson Woodward Ferguson '07
Austin Faulk '95
Joy Nanney Finch '77
Marty Team Garrison '89
Adelaide Capers Johnson '69
Ridgley Beckett Joyner '10

Sarah Ellis Lehner '74
Susan Secord Marion '80
Claudia Jowitt McCollough '62
Caroline Watts Morris '64
Samantha Nicholson '12
Kiley Rikard '00

Carrie Lamae Saxon '10
Christi von Lehe Sellars '76
Connie B. Stillinger '14
Libby Cuttino Tilson '79
Agnes Wallace Williams '57
Kitty Oldham Young '66

{ CLASS Notes }

1953

Laura McLean Taylor is proud to share that her son, Spence Taylor, who is also the cousin of the late **Rebecca "Becky" Ramsaur Pennell**, received the H. Biemann Othersen, Jr. M.D. Distinguished Alumnus Award at the MUSC Surgical Society Dinner.

1957

Hazel Peery Cauthen takes organ lessons and her husband Charlie has been creating sculptures. **Sylvia Carver Chandler** celebrated her 80th birthday on a Caribbean Cruise and gets together with her Converse roommate, **Patsy Coy McMillian**. **Katherine Warner Cribb** teaches piano at her home studio. Jack, her husband, died in 2015, her children and grandchildren keep her company. **Astrid Gerry Daly** and her husband, Ed moved to Natchez from Texas. **Nettie Sanders Linker** sings in her church choir and played in the national USTA playoffs in 2014! **Linda Roller Livick** and her husband Mal are celebrating 60 years of marriage. In 1994, they lost a son, as well as another in 2014. They have 13 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. **Langhorne Lewis McCarthy** is living at Westminster Canterbury and loves being there. She serves on three boards and volunteers at church. **Julia Phifer Murray** is sad to announce that her husband of 58 years, Leonard Murray, passed away on December 20, 2016. **Kathryn Blake Pearce** and her husband Bob are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary in July. Three of their 12 grandchildren are getting married. **Frances Kimmons Poole** enjoys spending time with her family and

friends after the loss of her husband in 2009. **Jeanne Harshbarger Sawyer** volunteers with Arts in Cleveland, began in the Arts Council as a Concert Association Volunteer and is still singing. **Nancy Barron Smith's** husband has been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, so their daughter, **Nancy Smith Gage '82**, encouraged them to move to Summit Hills in Spartanburg to be closer to family. They have a great granddaughter and great grandson on the way! **Cecelia Shuler Ulmer** donated in honor of the Class of 1957. **Agnes Wallace Williams** and Jim, her husband, are enjoying Greenville, traveling, being active at church and spending time with their four grandchildren. **Margaret Dick Wyman** and husband Bubber are enjoying retirement at Still Hopes Episcopal Retirement Community. Margaret and her daughter, Elizabeth, enjoyed their annual visit to Charleston with **Kathryn "Kitty" Blake Pearce** and her daughter, Kathryn, as well as **Frances Satterlee Alexander '55**.

1958

Daisy Barron visited her daughter, **Ellen Leland Wilholt '84**, last fall. She enjoyed seeing **Patsy Cox McMillan** and daughter, **Melanie McMillan '84**, as well as visiting the lovely creek home of **Sylvia Craver Chandler** in Wando. She was Patsy's stand-in bride a hundred years ago.

1961

Betty Lake Orr's granddaughter, **Julia Lake Cauthen**, married Hampton Lake Williams on March 25th in Charlotte. They are both graduates of Wofford College. Julia works in Greenville and the groom is in his second year of medical school.

1962

Novie McCree is President of Master Gardeners of York County. She specializes in growing antique (old garden) roses. Novie would love to hear from others who are raising antique roses.

1963

Nancy Hamer Andrews passed away in September 2016. Hamer was the real firecracker of our class and she will be missed. **Sallie Huckel Baker** enjoys bird watching and gardening. **Cecil Caldwell Birnie** enjoyed a visit to a ranch in New York State with her grandchildren. **Nancy Brown Davis** and a group are taking a summer visit to Vermont. Nancy is ready for the 55th class reunion – June 1-3, 2018! (Mark your calendars!) **Gelene Duncan Ellsworth's** two newest grandchildren, were baptized at the Ellsworth's home at Christmastime. **Betty Moore Henderson** spent 2016 playing with her four grandchildren and visited Yosemite National Park (with newly re-married Converse roommate **Elaine Smith Moses**). **Barbara Browne Langhorne's** granddaughters are in Washington, DC! **Betty (Beeper) Parish Lentz**, has four sons and 11 grandchildren in Nashville, TN and is enjoying life! **Julia Adams McLaurin's** son was married in Punta Cana this past June. **Betty Reynolds Oare** and husband Ernie spent the winter showing their horses on the Gulf circuit. Ms. Betty received an award for lifetime achievement in judging show hunters. **Anne Flintom McLeod's** family will be headed to Cashiers, NC this summer. African safaris and travel to London have kept **Peggy Rainwater** (five-year cancer survivor!) happy. **Boopie Poole Rose** spent the holidays in Botswana, Africa, visiting daughter Allison's family. **Emily Kerr Stay** received the Mae Kilgo Spirit of Converse Award at the 2017

{ CLASS Notes }

Reunion Weekend for her dedication to Converse. **Gibbie Scott Walters** and husband John are enjoying the Georgia mountains. **Agnes Binder Weisiger** has had new hips installed so she and husband Ed can continue golfing around the world. They are enjoying having a (relatively) new daughter-in-law, Betsy Fleming, near them in Charlotte, NC. **Sudie Davis Anderson White**, after years of widowhood, married a long-time friend. **Lish Early Willey** visited **Hattie Liddon Andersen** in Denmark. **Rhetta Fair Wilson** tends to her granddaughters while their mom travels overseas on business. **Carolyn Morrow Wynn** joined **Anne Waters Green** and Anne's husband Jim on a Mediterranean cruise. **Betty Moore Henderson**, Co-Class Rep: "Ladies of 1963 – put June 1-3, 2018, on your calendars. That's our 55th class reunion in Spartanburg! We'll have the option of staying in a dorm on campus – which ought to be almost more fun than we can stand (but not quite!)"

1964

Anne Mayo Elliott had a great trip to Oaxaca, Mexico for 10 days in December 2016 with **Henrietta Hughes Ouzts**. They enjoyed the Christmas decorations and went to Susana Trilling's cooking school. Anne had her sixth grandchild, George Witney Edward on January 2, 2017. **Jackie Fowler George** and husband Jim spent a month in Southeast Asia last May visiting Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam. This was a long awaited trip to bring closure for Jim, who was in Vietnam during war time. They continue to do much volunteer work through their church and The Music Club of Spartanburg.

1965

Ginger McKinney Jernigan and

husband, John Lee, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a Grecian cruise, then met family in Rome and London. Ginger ran into **Caroline Beatty Bowen** in Saks in NYC! **Brenda Barden Bary McGlinchey** is a soloist and section leader at her Episcopal church and a member of the Philadelphia Mendelssohn Club Chorus. She travels with the Umbrian Serenade Singers. She is now enjoying a cancer-free life after a struggle with breast cancer. **Elaine Elder King McCarrick** was widowed in 2010. She is enjoying her retirement from the Mary Baldwin Library, Garden Club and visiting her six grandsons. **Anna Dean Johnson's** husband, Yates, died quite unexpectedly in the fall. **Terry Rawls Harth** was also recently widowed, losing her husband to brain cancer. She is cheered by the birth of a new grand-nephew and the marriage of her niece. **Lynn N Joseph** is still working for Wells Fargo. **Betty Ruth Byers Mastley** joined **Charlene Seigler Wells** and **Rosemary Newton Bass Young** at the beach. **Bibba Walker Thomas** missed the trip this year. Charlene is an artist and Rosemary is CEO of Bass Smith Funeral Home in Hickory. Betty Ruth is happy staying in touch with her Converse friends. **Sabra McDaniel Moseley** will have two grands off to college and hopes one will consider Converse. She keeps up with Converse friends, **Fran Tinsley Kay**, **Linda Frank Johnson** and **Caroline Harley DuBose**. Sabra is still adjusting to her life as a widow. **Mary Ann Remaklus Ready** journeyed to Sicily in May. She enjoys staying in touch with everyone as class correspondent and is looking forward to visits from **Elaine Elder King McCarrick** and **Brenda Barden Bary McGlinchey**.

1966

Sally Clancy Ballard shared that the educational manual she wrote for teachers and administrators, titled CONTROL IS NOT A 4 LETTER WORD: Establishing positive classroom behavior the first week of school, will be published which she hopes to get to future Converse students. Sally had a knee replacement and is hoping **Mildred** and **Linda Crimm** will visit her in the mountains! **Martha McAngus Belcher** loved seeing you at Converse Reunion Weekend 2016. She and Jesse had a trip to Germany in December. She, **Murray Addison Handback** and **Jo Lynne Lambert Pearce** are in constant communication. Murray's little brother, Tommy, died of complications from rheumatoid arthritis, he is missed by all who knew and loved him. **Meg Hines Fisher** and Ellis celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Meg and Ellis will be moving to Dallas to be closer to their daughter after Ellis retires. **Ann Sienknecht Humbracht** has been traveling to see family, friends and her grandchild. In October, she will be going with **Linda Barron Thomas** on a cruise through Germany. She is on the Session at her church. **Patricia Chandlee Lowry** and husband John enjoyed a trip to Croatia last fall with old army buddies. **Sally Thomason Russell** spent a weekend in February at Kiawah with **Pat (Chandlee)** and John Lowry, **Dodie (Magarahan)** and Buddy Cubitt and **Janet (Duff)** and Leon O'Kelley. Earle and Sally will be celebrating their 50th anniversary in September and is headed to Paris with their children and their spouses. **Donna Perry Vandiver** donated in honor of her Class of 1966. **Mary Anna Baum Vincent** was sorry she missed her 50th Reunion. "Reunion 2017 –

{ CLASS Notes }

staying in the dorms sounds fun!" She retired but enjoys teaching Spanish in an after school program.

1967

Ann Armour is busy entertaining at her home in Ocala, FL. **Dianne Williams Black** moved from Napa, CA to Sacramento, CA to be near her daughter, son-in-law and three grandchildren. She is on the board of the local AAUW Chapter. **Rosamonde Boyd** would be so proud. **Karen Elvy Talley Bryan** lives in Morganton, NC and stays busy with her business (Exodus Coffinworks), her foundation duties, organ lessons and golf. **Sue Ann Washington Cousar** and husband, Dr. Robert W. Cousar, Jr. served as missionaries in the Amazon rain forest of Brazil. They now have a house church on Upper Captiva Island, FL, where they have lived the past 19 years. **Cassandra "Sandra" Jones Husted** and her husband, Bob, spend their time traveling around racing their two whippets. **Anne Holloway Jones** lives in Frederick, MD. Anne stays busy with her four children and seven grandsons. Sandra visited with **Suzanne Wallace Casey** in Salisbury, NC. Suzanne's son was married the same weekend as our reunion. **Lucia Cleveland Johnson** lives in Cedartown, GA and continues to teach Manners and Etiquette. Son, Will, is Senior Horticulturist at Salisbury University and the Faculty Adviser for the Kappa Sigma fraternity. **Rosalie Stone Morris** completed an Executive Management Program and became a department store buyer in Charlotte, NC. Daughter, Rosalie, is an artist and fashion designer in New York. Son, Charles Hill, Jr. lives in Atlanta with his wife, **Louisa Jordan Morris '99**, daughter of **Suzanne**

Smith Jordan, and their son, Charles III. **Karen Stratton Schlag** donated in honor of the class of 1967. **Dicke Tredway Sloop** recently got together with **Susan Dewy Jackson**. They were able to catch up in wine country in the Yadkin Valley of NC.

1968

In January 2017, **Ann Dukes Cater**, along with four producers from the PBS affiliate station, WTCI in Chattanooga, TN were awarded a MidSouth Emmy in the Documentary/Cultural Arts category from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. **Carol Early Graham** shared that a visit to Chautauqua, NY last September brought back memories of Converse faculty and students during summer seasons in the 60's. It is more beautiful than she remembered it! **Janice Hough Mast** and her husband retired after 40 years as professors and administrators at Miami Dade College, Miami, Florida. They enjoy their large extended family in the Carolinas, travel and community activities.

1969

Ardis Parrott Albany retired and spends much of her time gardening and is happy to have the time to travel and to see her friends. **Kathy Zahniser Bailey** had a career in IT in Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts and retired in 2010. She has four grandchildren. **Mary Rainey Belser** and her husband Clinch have four grandsons and a granddaughter, Mary's namesake, Mary Caroline Creighton - who was born April 21, 2016. Baby Mary and her parents live in New Canaan, Ct. Mary and Clinch's oldest son is currently in Tampa. Their middle son practices law with Clinch

and has three boys. **Janet Kimball Camlin** is mother to three children and a stepchild. She worked part time at a bank for, volunteered and gardened. **Sarah Haley Hixon** is living in Perote, AL looking after the farm, her son, daughters and grands. She is able to volunteer in Troy and Union Springs. **Elinor Banks McLaughlin's** younger son's Parker married Lindsay Henderson in August 2016 at Silver Falls State Park in Oregon. **Harriet Dobbins Martin** is working with her mother who is 101 years old. Harriet is working part time and misses everyone! **Cathy Mancke Tisdale** turned 70 in February! She is looking forward to the 50th reunion and hopes her fellow day-students will try to come. Cathy is retiring after ten and a half years as director of the Office of Bar Admissions and fifteen years with the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism for the Supreme Court of Georgia. **Trudy Tucker** is opening up an arts and craft store that will be called "Ferns and Fancy!"

1970

Nancy Jane Stedman Calloway uses her PhD in the health field to help others integrate mind and body for better health. **Ann Joyner Cross** balances working part time for husband Roane and babysitting her grandchildren. **Smitty, Nancy Jane**, and **Smack** met in Winston-Salem to catch up on life and their grandchildren. **Jan Rorbeck Dees** had more than her share of house damage to repair due to Mother Nature. **Patty Downes Johnson** spends time at the beach or traveling with husband Steve. Patty connected Jan and Smack Mack, both are still recovering from knee replacement surgery. Smack

{ CLASS Notes }

has re-entered the workforce on a part-time basis and is tutoring special needs children who are temporarily served in a homebound environment. In February, Smack had a visit with **Claire Hailey Hall** and **Eileen Nolen Rampey**. Claire travels in-state to see her grandchildren, Eileen and husband Steve took a trip to Ireland and are headed to California wine country. **Perry Hicks Jordan** is well in Texas with her two daughters, Liz an attorney in New York and Sara, an environmental activist in DC. **Howard Brown Millican, Linnie Hicks Mitchell** and Smack got together in January to celebrate Linnie's birthday. Howard stays busy with son David, who splits his time between post-grad studies at Virginia Tech and researching birds in South America. Linnie spent Thanksgiving in Croatia with daughter Laurie, who is exploring Europe. Howard, Linnie, and **Pam Holderness Hassenfelt** attended a high school 50th reunion event. She stays busy with her grandchildren. **Kay Komenak Stricklin** moved back to Spartanburg after 40 years. **Lynda "Smitty" Smith Swann** leads the mail order clothing business her father started, and daughter Parker now has a role there. **Thayer Cheatam Willis** leads the organization she founded as a wealth counselor and writes a newsletter. Our next class reunion will be our 50th from college. Time flies!

1972

Maria Grimbball Harvin recently donated in honor of the class of 1937 since her mother, **Caroline Belser Grimbball**, was a member of the class.

1974

The Class of 1974 is proud of **Susie**

Nettles Miller for being chosen to receive the Converse College Community Service Award! **Elodie Hale Craig's** daughter, Elizabeth was married in St. Augustine in October. Elodie visited Bali with some friends, took an Alaskan cruise with her husband and will be spending Christmas in Europe. **Amanda Horton Dorman** is a mentor mom for her church's MOPS ministry and has a passion for Orangetheory fitness. **Elizabeth Harrill Eustice** and husband, Wes, took a cruise to Canada and New England and another to Norway. Since 1993, **Jane Galloway Hendrix** has been the director of the Dunwoody School for the Arts, part of the Dunwoody Baptist Church. Jane teaches voice, piano and Kindermusik. **Susie Nettles Miller** and husband Alan (Wofford '74) are very proud of their son, Josh. His coffee shop, Damn Fine Coffee Bar, was listed in a Zagat article as one of the "9 Hottest Coffee Shops" in Chicago. **Lynn Murray's** son, Jonathan Henry Taylor (JJ) will marry **Kate Lynn Granger**. Her daughter, Kelly, went on a mission trip in Kenya during the Spring. **Carey Mason Perkins** is back from SE Asia and planning a return trip to Cambodia and Vietnam. Her daughter and son-in-law will be in Bangkok for another two years as a home base. **Jane Kerr Pride** attended her husband Sam's 45th West Point Class Reunion. Janie continues to write magazine articles about her Dutch Dressage ponies, and has been published in five National Dressage Magazines! **Karen Borden Thimmel** retired in June 2016. She enjoys knitting, crocheting and raises a standard poodle puppy and her mother's Bichon after her death in 2015. Karen enjoyed a visit from **Kathy Law** in November. **Barbara Brown Whitney** had her first submission into

a photographic show at the Blue Ridge Arts Center in Seneca, SC.

1975

Libby Knight Borders' daughter, Blair, was married in January 2016 to Donnie Young in Pensacola, FL and they now live in Asheville! Their second granddaughter was born Dec. 28, 2015. **Julie Forbes Lybrand** enjoys new adventures, using her professional experience in volunteer capacities and visiting children around the country. Her daughter was married in 2016. In March, she visited **Sandy Kopp Roberts** and attended the Philadelphia Flower Show. **Robin Hutchison** has been busy playing with two beautiful grandbabies, **Jane Evans Driscoll**, "Janie", born on August 25, 2016 and Joseph Spencer Merritt, "Joe", born on November 18, 2016. Aside from babysitting, Robin works at J McLaughlin in Chapel Hill and still keeps a hand in real estate. Since retirement from teaching in 2013, **Frances Barr Strickland** has begun her "bucket list" adventure. It was a great experience to complete a Rim2Rim hike in the Grand Canyon. Since then, she has returned to the Grand Canyon multiple times. She has also dearly enjoyed seeing the world through the eyes of her two grandchildren.

1977

Jean Parks Bunch recently donated in the honor of the class of 1977.

1978

Lucy Carter Ault works part time as the assistant to the headmaster at Veritas Preparatory School. She loves gardening and has started "Landscapes

{ CLASS Notes }

by Lucy." **Melinda Benson** is a special education coordinator at a charter school in Mt Pleasant, SC. She has three grandchildren. **Barbara Duffy Feemster** and husband Dwight are in Savannah. Barbara has been the Ministry Assistant at Compassion Christian Church for more than nine years. **Sherry Anne (Blumer) Gettys** became a first-time grandmother in 2017. She also completed a term as President of the SC Medical Association Alliance, and wished her Navy son "Fair winds and following seas" as he left for deployment on the USS G.H.W. Bush in the Arabian Sea. **Lee Ullman Hutson** became a grandmother on October 26, 2016. In addition, her daughter married March 25, 2017, in Charleston. After 37 years of marriage, **Martha Haslett Ladd** sadly lost her husband in February 2016 to cancer. She is now managing their farm after retiring from teaching to spend more time with her two newest grandchildren. **(Martha) Page Morton** shared the sad news that **Kimberlee (Kim) Todd Scheffler**, passed away in November 2016 after a brave fight with cancer. **Suzanne Stuart Pickens** opened a vintage and antique store -- S 2nd St Treasures -- with a friend in Palatka. She loves keeping up with Converse friends via Facebook! **Linda Saunders** got married in October; semi-retired in August. She spends time at her condo at Harbor Island near Beaufort, SC. **Suzanne Hughes Sullivan** has four children, three of whom are in their twenties. Her caboose is a junior in high school and the two of them are currently undergoing the college search process. **Louise Strickland Wells** has been playing a lot of duplicate bridge trying to achieve the Life Master and welcomed her third grandchild. **Katharine (Kaki) Barton Manning Zeigler's** has opened a real

estate development and construction company with her brother and nephew, Longfield Residential. She sends her love to all of her Converse friends. Hugh and **Blanche Gramling Weathers** spent time traveling in France. Blanche celebrated the birth of a new granddaughter and several weddings in her family. **Jeannie Davis Powell** is getting back into art and painting again.

1979

Suzanne Bridges Coggins wants her class to know that her mother, Mary Ellen Bridges, passed away on February 3, 2017. Suzanne and her husband moved to Clemson in November and are loving living in Tiger Town! **Sarah Mercer Chatel** and her teammates were honored at a 2016 Charity Luncheon for raising \$46,000 for Atlanta Habitat.

1981

Edith Hopkins Collins is President of Benefit Alternatives, Inc. in Roswell, GA. Edith is also a National Judge for the United States Sailing Association where she travels around the country as a Race Official and Judge for sailboat races. **Sherryl Powell Dodd's** daughter Lori married Patrick Doyle at Lowndes Grove in Charleston. **Marianna MacIntyre** donated in honor of the Bones of '81 and the '81 Red Devils.

1982

Becky Brasington Clark took a new job as Director of Publishing for the Library of Congress last year. It's the world's largest library with more than 160 million items in its collections. She

supervises a team of six professionals who develop proposals for books and other products which showcase the Library's collections. **Melicent "Mel" Jeter** is enjoying retirement and has traveled to the Grand Canyon and Las Vegas. Her brother, Vernon, passed away June 30, 2016. **Emeline Thomasson Loughlin** travels between her homes in Georgia and Colorado. **Linda Still Carter Winegardner** is working less in her small medical practice and mainly focusing on Women's Health. She is trying to help all women her age stay young and healthy.

1984

Cynthia Ann Sisk recently relocated back to Spartanburg from Seattle, Washington and looks forward to being more involved in the Converse community. She is self-employed as an Organizational and Leadership Coach. Cynthia has completed two master's degrees in Clinical Psychology (2003) and Organizational Development and Leadership (2015) respectively.

1987

We had a ball at the 30th Class Reunion in June. Thanks to all who planned and participated! **Molly Levy Campbell** may have the best slogan: Life is good "when you reach that age when being a senior on Spring Break means visiting your grandson!" **Julie Todd Pell** is a new grand mommy to baby Kendrick in Charleston. She has started her own custom sewing business featuring pillows called "Pellows." **Jane Harlan** has moved to a carriage house in Savannah with a new job as the Practice Administrator at Kids First Pediatrics. The daring **Margaret Cone Moran** went on a trip with her sister

{ CLASS Notes }

to Croatia, Bosnia, and Montenegro this spring. She resides with her family in New London, PA. **Reba Jennings Murphy** took a vacation in the Turks and Caicos Islands with her daughter, Kat. Meanwhile, **Julie Norville** and family visited Costa Rica for their spring break. **Sandy Wright Riccardi** and her husband Richard are getting a lot of attention on YouTube for their political, musical parodies and recorded an album recently. Her son, Jessie Yen, completed his aviation maintenance certification training at the top of his class in California. **Amy Clawson Williams'** son, Caleb, graduated from high school in Wilson, NC and has signed on to play football at Bridgewater College in Virginia. **Erin Docherty's** foster son was recognized as a "Kiwans Club Terrific Kid" this spring in Spartanburg. Daughter, Rae, was a featured performer at the Converse Shining Stars Recital in March.

1989

Stacie Haneline had a busy year acting as the Interim Piano Chair for the University of Nebraska - Omaha School of Music. Extensive performing engagements this year will take Stacie to the International Symposium on Performance Science in Reykjavik, Iceland. She is active as a pianist for the Omaha Symphony, the Omaha Chamber Music Society and Broadway Touring Shows such as *Wicked*, *Book of Mormon*, *Legally Blonde*, *Sister Act*.

1990

Karen Caton Granger defended her dissertation, "University Education Faculty Backgrounds and Attitudes toward Gifted Education and

1988



"Having a graduate with Kimilee's diverse success and determination is the perfect way to usher Converse graduates onto their professional paths,"
senior class president Kirby Lesesne '17 said.

Kimilee Bryant '88, accomplished musician who sang the lead role of Christine in *Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway as well as in Switzerland and Toronto, returned home to Converse to give the commencement address.

Sharing her life's journey and insights gained along the way, she implored the graduates to "Have a plan and a dream, and take the steps to make that dream come true. You have begun by obtaining a wonderful education. Now, with the confidence you have in that, follow through. Someone has to get that job, win that role, start a company, cure an illness, win that gold medal. Why not you?"

Kimilee's return to her Converse community after a whirlwind career on the stage and screen is the latest step in her distinct journey.

{ CLASS Notes }

Opportunities for Preservice Teachers in Southeastern North Carolina”, in February 2017. This completed her doctoral degree from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in Education Leadership in the Curriculum and Instruction track. She will continue to teach and work with teacher education preparation in the School of Education at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

Katherine McKoy Hembree has been homeschooling her two children, keeping her husband's books, gardening, field tripping and continuing the gluten-free/dairy-free/egg-free cooking for her allergic child. She is praying for strength to teach a week of VBS to 5 year-olds.

Lawson Edwards Hough is keeping busy with Pulliam Morris, the same firm she's been with since before graduation. Both of her children are playing lacrosse while she and her husband, Emmet, are learning the rules of the game. **Brandy Belk Long** is raising twin boys, ages 17. She travels the country every June. Her favorite locations are in the West including Wyoming, South Dakota's Black Hills and Badlands. Brandy went back to work in 2015 as a server at a restaurant, and is loving the socialization. **LeNoir White Medlock** stays busy brokering real estate transactions and sending children off to college and Europe.

Liz Holt Nunnally is a practicing real estate agent in the Upstate. **Rebecca Lesto Shunk** has been busy with her three children and spending time following their sports. At work, she is the Associate Chief of Staff for Education and a professor of medicine. This year she was inducted into the Academy of Medical Educators, which has been a lifelong dream of hers.

1992

In February, a group of Pink Panthers (**Ashton Ellis Bozard, Susannah Grambling Hubbell, Cami Burton Hutchinson, Paige Pooser Merrill, Natalie Audish Scott, and Marcy Hindes Swan**) visited **Anna Wimberly Pierce's** family lake house at Lake Burton. This was **Liza Ann Acosta's** first academic year as University Dean at North Park University. She continues to work as a writer with **Teatro Luna**, as the Literary Director with Urban Theater Company. Recently, she met with **Sandra Collazo Hachem '90** who visited with her husband and two kids. In May 2016, **Joanna Hild Bentz** received her Master's degree in Special Education and works as an Intervention Specialist in an elementary school in Dublin, OH. **Rebie Mays Bland** is a homemaker and stay-at-home mom. **Laura Blume** left the corporate world as an Editor and Creative Director for publications and marketing firms, and is now a freelance designer and painter. Her website is www.BlumeShine.com. **Heather Rowland Brabham** is a mom to three boys and an Independent Consultant with Rodan+Fields. Husband Travis and **Stacy Brabo Childers** have a farm in Gaffney, SC. Stacy homeschools her two children. They spend vacations traveling to national parks throughout the US. **Jennifer Cronk** currently teaches second grade in Richmond Public Schools. In August 2016, **W. Robert (Rob) Hair**, husband Steven, and their two boys moved to Baltimore when Rob accepted a new position at the Maryland School for the Blind. She formerly served as the Education Director at the Perkins School for the Blind for 10 years. **Polly Greene Haselden** is an Associate Professor of

Education and Coordinator of Teacher Cadets and Teaching Fellows at Francis Marion University. She has two girls with her husband Scott. **Susannah Grambling Hubbell** lives in Charleston with her husband and two children. She is painting and focusing mostly on portrait work with some architectural landscapes as well. **Heather Purdie Hulseley** has been with Mary Kay Cosmetics for 19 years now and just earned her 11th free car, the Pink Cadillac! In June 2016, **Laura Mobley Mathis** was selected to be Executive Director of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission. **Mandy McCoy Phillips** lives in Santa Barbara, CA with husband Jeff and son Pierce. She is a software engineer at Bruker Nano. **Mollie Dee Little** Robinson moved from Charleston, SC to Lexington, VA three years ago with her husband's company. She is an elementary school counselor and has two boys. **Susan Melinda Bridges-Smith** has taught Elementary Art for 25 years. She retired at the end of this school year but continues to paint. **Chesley Wood Sneed** lives in Durham, NC with her husband Rob and two children. Chesley is working as an assistant in a preschool class at their church. **Marcy Hindes Swan** has four children, and she works for herself at M. Swan Interior Design. **Vicki Verbus Gayle** is a Stem Cell Transplant Coordinator at UT MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Her daughter is getting ready to go to Texas State University to pursue music/voice and plans to study with former Converse alum, **Dr. Oliver Worthington**. For the past 12 years, **Beth Davenport Williams** has taught World Literature to tenth graders at Newnan High School. She loves being a mother to 4 kids. **Elizabeth Lesto Zadig** is married with 3 children and is

{ CLASS Notes }

working as a teacher for the deaf and hard of hearing for Charleston County Schools.

1993

On December 23rd, 2016 **Leslie Fowler Benson** welcomed her oldest son home from Bahrain after serving in the US Navy. Her daughter entered nursing school and her youngest son, a high school senior, won his third NC State Championship in Folk Style wrestling. She continues to substitute teach following a 20-year career as a High School Chemistry teacher. This year **Mitzi Gibbons Smith** became a Certified Lymphedema Therapist and works for Williamson Medical Center in Franklin, TN. **Elizabeth "Beth" Strickland** has been teaching special education in NYC for 11 years. She visited Cuba over Christmas and is training for a black belt in Taekwondo. **Rebecca Earle Talbert** is living in Brentwood, TN with her husband Pearson and their three girls. She followed her passion for horses and has started her own business, RT Horsemanship LLC, which helps adults ride their horses with confidence! In January 2016, two alumnae sisters, **Tracy Williamson Dart '91** and **Christi Williamson Pringle** launched a new company, FOUND, a capsule collection of women's accessories and clothing. The sisters purchase merchandise from primarily women-owned companies across the globe, whether it be from supporting communities in Tanzania or companies providing employment to mentally challenged women in El Salvador. Their company hosts seasonal trunk shows in private homes in Charlotte, Princeton, and in Converse alum, **Dorsey Dougette Delong's '91** home in Atlanta.

1996

Jennifer Minor Tuckwiller attended the wedding of **Mary Ellen Kastelic-Albert** in November to Ron Albert in Jacksonville Beach, FL. **Anna Snow Cheek, Amy Shipman Elkins, Elizabeth McLean Brown, Heidi Ruehl, and Page Vaughan Keller** also attended. Jennifer has been busy working on the Board for the YMCA of Beaufort County and will serve as Chairman from 2018-2020. **Kristin Johnson Welsh** has been busy working in the administration and management of four Graduate Medical Education Programs at Duke University Medical Center as a Residency and Fellowship Program Coordinator in the Department of Pediatrics. She manages the Child Neurology Residency Program, Pediatric Rheumatology Fellowship Program, Combined Internal Medicine/Pediatric Rheumatology Fellowship Program, and Pediatric Nephrology Fellowship Program. **Cindy Greene Goldsmith** recently donated in honor of her class of 1996.

1997

Shannon Gosnell Bishop has been teaching and shuttling the kids. **Kristin Bradshaw** was promoted to Chair of Liberal Arts and faculty lead for Creative Writing at Pacific Northwest College of Art. Her daughter, Olive, turned one year old. This February, **Charity Rollins Brown** began a part-time, home-based merchandiser position with chloe + isabel jewelry as a way to raise four kids as both a stay-at-home mom and the breadwinner. **Holly Easler Jones** is finishing up her 20th year of teaching middle school. Her daughter Riley will be starting college at USC this fall - she spent a weekend at Converse for Model Arab

League and won an award. Her son, Brady, is 11 and plays baseball. **Allison Cooper Malady** had a baby! **Caroline Ruth Malady** was born February 12. **Casey Thompson O'Dell** continues to own and operate O'Dell Landscaping LLC with her husband, Robert. Casey is an advocate for immigration reform and has started an advocacy group called WaytoGrowSC. She will be honored as an inspirational female leader in her community at RB Stall High School's first Annual Women's Empowerment Symposium. Stefanie Williams Prince is working full time with her company, SeaStar Homes, building beach houses, and working on a movie project while in the process of writing another. **Dawne Copeland Shaw** has been employed as a Hearing Itinerant Teacher with SC for the Deaf and Blind Outreach Department since January 2016.

1998

Since the last reunion, **Kerry Summey Ashley Easler** has been on campus with her daughter, **Megan Ashley**, who will be attending Converse in the fall. She will be a Red Devil even though her mother wishes she were a Pink Panther too. Her godmother, Stephanie Crofton and Kerry are very happy about this decision. She attended President Newkirk's Inauguration with Stephanie as she represented High Point University. **Leanne Black Broome** currently attends Valdosta State University (online) and was awarded the Outstanding Master's Student in Library Media Award. She will complete the program in Spring 2017 and be certified as a School Library Media Specialist. **Dione Hires Morris** is the new orchestra director at Carver Middle in Spartanburg. She celebrated

{ CLASS Notes }

the birth of her second daughter, **Kathryn Marie**, on August 21, 2015. **Amy Medlin Wilson** and husband Jason have five children. They have been living in Columbia Falls, Montana and moved back to SC in September. While in Montana, Amy became a Certified Lactation Consultant. She continues to sing as much as possible with the addition of her older two children. They both sing and her oldest, Landon, is a great guitarist!

1999

Dawn Davis Deck has been busy with college visits and tours with both sons. Her oldest, Aaron, graduated in May and is still deciphering which college to attend. **Deanne Tyner Frye** welcomed a baby daughter, **Garin Mae**, on March 13th. **Sarah Farnaby** graduated with her PsyD, Doctorate in Psychology, and Clinical Psychology with a specialization in forensic and law enforcement. She expanded her private practice to cover DC and Alexandria, VA. **Katie Scheuer Hopper** was recently promoted to Center Manager of the Child & Family Service department at the community mental health center where she has been employed for the past 15 years.

2000

Emily Evans Cox has made a career change. She is now Director of Fund Development & Marketing at Urban League of the Upstate. **Emily Wright Crawford** has a new daughter, Madison James Crawford, born December 12, 2016. **Emily Hampton Saylor** and her husband welcomed a baby girl named **Maggie Clark Saylor** in January 2016. They relocated to their

hometown of London, Kentucky in July 2016. She is now a stay at home mom. **Angela Flowe Sprouse** celebrated the birth of her second child — a boy! Jackson Michael Sprouse was born on July 20, 2016.

2001

Rebecca Elizabeth Crandall is enjoying her first adjunct teaching position at the Craft Beverage Institute of the Southeast, where she teaches legal issues. Rebecca says, "It is great to have the opportunity to teach my clients' future employees who may someday also become clients themselves."

2002

Casey Roberts David welcomed her son, Max Rohan David, to the world on June 28, 2016. **Jennifer Wofford Merkel** married Matthew D. Merkel on New Year's Day, January 1, 2017! **Amanda Sigmon Sain** graduated with her Master's and Specialist in School Psychology degrees from Appalachian State University. In May 2016, she and her husband adopted their daughter from China, Ping Jun (9) who joins little sister Leela (7). **Kerri Lynn Olson Vrey** welcomed her daughter, **Kayla Lynn Vrey**, on July 23, 2016.

2003

Chrissie Price moved to London UK with her wife in 2015. She teaches tennis in Chiswick and Kensington. **Hellen Lloyd Willett's** mother, **Marian (Potts) Foster '78** married Mr. Hugh Papy from Savannah, GA on November 5, 2016. **Barbara (Duffy) Feemster '78** was in attendance, as well as **Lee Uhlman '78**.

2004

While **Amy Elizabeth McCarthy** was working as a Crime Analyst for the Southern Nevada Counter Terrorism Center, some of her analytical work was selected for publication in the ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute) Map Book, an international publication. **Myra Ann Taylor** graduated in 2015 from Converse College with a Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy. In 2016 she made a career change to the Counselor at SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department.

2005

Carolyn Marie Bone opened the Law Office of Carolyn M. Bone, LLC in Summerville, SC in 2014. **Heather Nicole Campfield** married Shane Campfield on April 24, 2015. She built a house and moved to a new address in June 2016. She is now the Applications Support Engineer with ScanSource in their IT department.

2006

Cindy Paulette Canty is a classic Fine Art Portrait Photographer/Artist and Owner of C. Canty Studios. **Maria Dee Gatto** married on May 15, 2016. As of August 2016, Maria is now a middle and high school art teacher at Northlake Christian School in Covington, LA. **Laura Lacey Guthrie** relocated back to South Carolina in December and is excited to be closer to her family. **Leslie Shain** was married to Jonathan Murray on December 23, 2016. **Emily Walker** married Adam C. Fowle on September 23, 2016, after starting her role as a BIC with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in July 2016. She and her husband live in Charlotte, NC.

{ CLASS Notes }

2007

Brittany N. Harrelson married Brian E. Smith at the Degas House in New Orleans, LA on October 8, 2016. The Smiths now reside in Florence, SC where Brittany teaches for the REACH Program for the Gifted and Talented and where Brian is a Technology Specialist for Francis Marion University.

Anna Caroline Harris married Caleb Ron Parker on November 19, 2016.

Jennifer Ann Howard is the Art Director at Huge Inc. She recently married after 10 years with her spouse, Jake Conklin.

2008

Terri Denise Faulks is now working as a Human Resources Representative at Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System. **Rachel Ng Hansen** welcomed Beckett Paul Hansen in July 2015.

Talisha Flegler Madison married Matthew J. Madison in July 2013 and welcomed her first child in November 2015. She earned a master's degree in mathematics education in 2016 from the University of Georgia. She now resides in Los Angeles, CA where she teaches high school mathematics.

2009

Heather Price Holowach recently published her first novel, a YA steampunk fantasy titled *The Wizard's Way*, under the pseudonym H.P. Holo, and coauthored with her husband Jacob. **Morgan Amelia Jordan** was hired at Wofford College as Director of Lifelong Learning and married Andrew Jordan. **Sara Elizabeth Sipe** obtained Licensure in the field of Marriage & Family Therapy in 2013. In 2016 she became Operational Director of local

nonprofit, West Gate Family Therapy Institute.

2010

Morgan Elizabeth Anderson lives in Miami, FL and works for the nonprofit organization, City Year Miami, which recruits young people of diverse backgrounds to do a year of service in one of our nation's under-resourced schools. During her year of service, she acts as a tutor, mentor, and role model to the students. Anderson served as an AmeriCorps Member with City Year in 2011 and now works on staff as a manager for a team of AmeriCorps members at schools City Year serve in Miami. **Robin O'Malley Hardy** married Brad Hardy October 2014. Their daughter, Denise, was born January 2015.

2011

Lucy Faith McInnes graduated with an MFA in studio art, ceramics focus, from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2016.

2012

Erin Michelle Fleming recently started as Manager of Marketing and Public Relations at Tryon Fine Arts Center and would be happy to be a resource for any writing, marketing or theatre students looking for internships.

Ashleigh Louise Geldenhuys moved to Nashville, TN. She is working at Vanderbilt Medical Center in the IT department. It was a busy year for **Krystal Marie Kinsey!** She married Timothy Wayne Kinsey, and they welcomed their first child, Amelia Gray

Kinsey, who will be a Pink Panther as well, c/o 2028!

2013

Rachel Suzanne Blackburn is working at Amazon as an Executive Assistant. **Mary Margaret Collins** and Samuel Francis Crews IV, both of Columbia, were united in marriage February 25, 2017, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Columbia. The Reverend Dr. Ronald Brent Taylor officiated the ceremony. **Maddisen Greye Currier** received her Master of Nonprofit Management in December 2013. She is the Development Associate for Hope Center for Children. **Hailey C. Hodge** graduated with an MFA in printmaking from The University of Mississippi in May. Her graduate thesis exhibition entitled "The Archive," followed by a reception, was held in April 2017. **Maggie Lawter** and her partner, **Allison Davis '14**, are getting married this September at Converse! Maggie is working at the University of South Carolina as the LGBT Programs Director, and Allison is working at Columbia College as an Area Coordinator! They are so excited to spend their big day saying "I do" on their favorite college campus!

2016

Anna Robinson French married Corey French on April 8, 2017 and they bought their first home in Spartanburg.

2017

Addie Ledbetter recently donated in honor of her class of 2017.

{ IN SYMPATHY }

1952

Dr. Joseph Whitner Kennedy, December 16, 2016, husband of Aileen Kabrich Kennedy

1954

George Gage, Jr., October 1, 2016, husband of Elizabeth Massey Gage

1960

Bobbie Woods Twitty Mattiske, July 18, 2016, sister of Martha Twitty Erwin

1962

Bobbie Woods Twitty Mattiske, July 18, 2016, sister of Ellen Twitty McCotter sister of Lilian Twitty Welch

1964

Benjamin Gettys Team, Jr., March 21, 2017, husband of Martha Anderson Team

1965

Yates Johnson, December 11, 2016, husband of Anna Dean Johnson

1966

Margaret Howell McAngus '40, November 3, 2016, mother of Martha McAngus Belcher

1967

James Hamilton "Jimmie" Stewart, III, November 11, 2016, husband of Blanche Isom Stewart

Lauren Robertson Staubes, November 9, 2016, daughter of Robbie King Staubes

1969

Margaret Howell McAngus '40, November 3, 2016, mother of Mary McAngus Gettys

1973

Nan S. Mason, January 28, 2017, sister of Patricia "Patti" Snively Herndon

1974

Elizabeth Elmore '46, July 21, 2016, mother of Elizabeth "Libba" Elmore Rhoad

Brennan Charles Wilson Johnson, November 28, 2016, son of Doris Johnson

1978

Ted B. Sumner, Jr., January 28, 2017, father of Stacy Sumner Jesso

1980

Richard Elmer, July 30, 2016, husband of Helen Clower Elmer

1982

Georgia Tolly Shelton '56, July 26, 2016, mother of Leigh Shelton Cassady

Nan S. Mason, January 31, 2017, sister of Margaret "Meg" Snively Strang

Anita Joyce Posey, February 9, 2017, mother of Kelly LaRue Posey

1983

Patricia Dillard, July 17, 2016, mother of Terri Dillard Gowdy

1989

Benjamin Gettys Team, Jr., March 21, 2017, father of Marty Team Garrison

1995

Mitchell Baston, July 23, 2016, husband of Wendy Burch Batson

Share your life events!

Alumnae are encouraged to submit notes for every issue of Converse Magazine at Converse.edu/KeepUsCurrent.

Class Notes, In Sympathy and In Memoriam includes information submitted to the Alumnae Office by April 1, 2017.

{ IN MEMORIAM }

1938

E. Ruth Milan
August 9, 2016

1939

Toy Hannon Boyter
February 5, 2017

1940

Margaret Howell McAngus
November 3, 2016

1942

Elizabeth Crow Allen
March 7, 2017

Emmala Louise Young
January 3, 2017

1943

Marcia Parrish Flow
December 2, 2016

Mary Spencer Sonneborn
November 5, 2016

Paula Zeigler Wright
September 5, 2016

1944

Betty Murph Timmerman
November 4, 2016

Elizabeth "Bess Owen" Alexander Yeilding
September 10, 2016

1945

Hannah Walker Stambaugh
January 17, 2017

1946

Kitty Colclough Graham
August 13, 2016

Frances Evans "Bebe" Parker
February 28, 2017

Katherine McElroy Vincent
February 23, 2016

Dicksie Brown Cribb
January 30, 2017

Mary Helen Garrison Dalton
July 25, 2016

Elizabeth Boyd Elmore
July 21, 2016

1948

Sybil Creighton Stewart
March 11, 2017

Caroline Brown Bumbarger
February 12, 2017

Frances J. Patton
September 29, 2016

1949

Bettye Lee Phillips
February 24, 2017

Frances Halford Sanders
December 24, 2016

Elizabeth McGeorge Spencer
October 31, 2016

Janet Cheves Paden
July 31, 2016

1950

Gwen Isbell Keran
November 3, 2016

Martha Hyde Wynn
October 30, 2016

Virginia Beach Davison
September 4, 2016

1951

Helen Smith
July 14, 2016

1952

Josephine Wood Tillinghast
December 12, 2016

1953

Rebecca Ramsaur Pennell
March 1, 2017

Charline Tribble Winslow
February 21, 2017

Martha Kinard Taylor
January 6, 2017

1954

Celia Brown
October 5, 2016

1955

Miriam Burks Wysock
December 28, 2016

1956

Georgia Tolly Shelton
July 26, 2016

1960

Mary Sanders Brown
January 3, 2017

Ashby Dun Scott
July 22, 2016

Patricia Slemmons Dillard
July 17, 2016

1962

Phyllis Wooten Zemp
July 14, 2016

Sandra "Joy Fain Ertle
July 13, 2016

{ IN MEMORIAM }

1963

Nancy Hamer Andrews
September 13, 2016

1964

Martha Terrence "Terry" VanderMyde
March 1, 2017

1965

Eliza Palmer Beckwith
November 7, 2016

1966

Barbara Nelson Yergens
January 5, 2017

1968

Pamela Hogan Cardona
March 9, 2017

Dennis Cantey Foster
December 8, 2016

1969

Deborah Todd Balasco
August 12, 2016

1970

Catherine C. Long
August 17, 2016

Sylvia Irene Lanford Marchant
July 19, 2016

1971

Mary Burwell
February 20, 2017

1972

Sally St. John Hume
July 24, 2016

1973

Jack E. Combs
January 31, 2017

Margaret Vivian Benton Jones
January 6, 2017

1975

Sonja Mullinax Trimmier
March 9, 2017

1976

Jan Maria Scalisi
January 19, 2017

1977

Bobbie Twitty Mattiske
July 18, 2016

1978

Gail O'Shields Bagwell
February 23, 2017

Kimberlee Todd Scheffler
November 6, 2016

1979

Randy T. Gregory
December 5, 2016

1980

Cherilyn Bridges Wentzel
October 14, 2016

1982

Esther Lander Long
July 19, 2016

1983

Patsy "Pat" Ann Howell Stephens
January 7, 2017

1987

Julie Hood-Crawford
February 18, 2017

1988

Teresa D. Cochran
December 12, 2016

1997

Mitchell D. Batson
July 23, 2016

1998

Susan Hall Fisher
September 24, 2016



Reunion Enchants with Stay-on-Campus Summertime Format

It was a Reunion Weekend like no other. From the moment of arrival (with S athletes as bellhops), to dining and dancing on back campus under a canopy to chatting in residence hallways into the wee hours of the morning, to celebrating with the Golden Club, and finally a teary-eyed departure. See more! [Converse.com](#)





at Spartanburg High School
with a canopy of twinkling lights,
celebrating our award winners
www.converse.edu/Reunion2017









