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# CONVERSE

We will **create, innovate, and transform**. Together. This issue of Converse Magazine captures the energy and spirit of our community. We hope you enjoy celebrating, reflecting and looking ahead with us!

Fall 2023

## Historic Cudd Hall Transformed

Converse University proudly unveiled the transformation of historic Cudd Hall on September 21, 2023. Members of the campus and local communities, as well as alumni and friends, attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate this treasured residence hall. Nestled in the heart of the Converse campus, this beloved home-away-from-home has undergone a one-year, \$4.8 million transformation to become a dynamic learning and living community for many students in the University's Nisbet Honors Program.

"We are so thankful to our alumni and friends who recognized the value and character of our beloved Cudd Hall and chose to support this important revitalization," shared Converse University President Boone Hopkins, Ph.D. "Their investment in Converse and its students has created a living-learning environment that will support student success for generations to come."



## Reunion Scheduled for April 19-20, 2024

We are excited to announce that Alumni Reunion Weekend 2024 will be returning to April to coincide with Founder's Day. Golden Club members, the Class of 1974, will be recognized by the entire campus as they process into Twichell Auditorium for Founder's Day on Friday, April 19. Immediately following this annual celebration, everyone will enjoy lunch on the lawn with Dexter Edgar Converse's favorite dessert—strawberries and cream! The Reunion schedule is being finalized, and alumni, especially those class years ending in 4 and 9, will receive updated information in the upcoming alumni newsletter, *Your Connection*. Get ready to celebrate by looking back at highlights from Alumni Reunion 2023 on the website, too.



## An Exciting Shift for Converse Magazine

*Converse Magazine has long been a treasured source of the University's most exciting news and events. Each year we've used this publication to highlight the innovative, creative, and transformative work of our community.*

To share the dynamic work happening on-and-off campus more frequently, the magazine will be revitalized from an annual publication to a streamlined mailer that is published multiple times a year with an expanded digital presence at [converse.edu/magazine](https://converse.edu/magazine).

This exciting evolution of the magazine will allow Converse to explore innovative new ways to engage with our alumni, donors, and friends. Now readers will receive highlights in a more timely manner and be able to explore videos, photo galleries, expanded stories and more on our website. We hope you enjoy your first Converse Magazine mailer!



Snap for the full experience.



## Commencement 2023

*On May 20, 2023, the Converse community gathered to celebrate the graduating Class of 2023. The graduates were involved in leadership opportunities, research, internships, study travel, and athletics. They now stand ready to pursue careers and support their communities as passionate, service-oriented citizens, as they make a positive difference in their professions and around the world.*



About the Class of 2023 Undergraduate Students:

- 30 were first-generation college students
- 9 were Converse II students, non-traditional students
- 53 were student-athletes
- 7 earned two undergraduate degrees
- 11 received degrees with multiple majors
- 7 were Converse International students
- 1 was named a Fulbright Scholar
- 77% participated in a student organization
- 50% were involved in leadership roles on campus
- 50% held an internship while at Converse
- 41% already had job placements at the time of graduation, at organizations including Pricewaterhouse Coopers, Yary Management, South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind, Alpha Investors, Greenville Theatre, NAACP, Spartanburg Districts Two and Six, Prisma Health, and Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System.

Snap the QR code on the back or visit [converse.edu/commencement](https://converse.edu/commencement) for a recap of Commencement 2023, along with photo albums, video highlights and the full ceremonies.

**“I encourage you to open doors for others like others have done for you. Wherever you are in your journey, the world needs more people who are willing to give back and make a positive impact. Together, we will make the world a better place.”**

– President Boone Hopkins, Ph.D.

## Thank you for Rocking the Tower!

Our seventh annual day of giving was our most exciting Rock the Tower yet! Alumni, faculty, staff, students, parents, and friends of Converse enthusiastically accepted this 24-hour giving challenge, with 353 donors providing support all across campus by raising an outstanding \$135,053!

“Whether it was by wearing your favorite Converse swag, sharing a post online, or making a gift, we thank those who took part in this exciting day,” said President Boone Hopkins, Ph.D. “Your support helped us experience a tremendous sense of Converse pride, and it will continue to support the transformative initiatives taking place across our campus.”

Gifts received during Rock the Tower will benefit scholarships, academic initiatives, athletic programs, and department projects across campus to enhance the Converse student experience. If you were unable to participate, you can still make an impact with a Converse Annual Fund gift at [converse.edu/give](https://converse.edu/give).



## Academic Programs Added to Meet Student Demand

Dedicated to remaining relentlessly student-centered, Converse has developed new and exciting programs to better align with student demand and workforce needs, and to maximize growth opportunities. This year, the University introduced new majors in Computer Science and Dance, and we are expanding our Environmental Studies and Data Science minors into majors.

Additions planned for Fall 2024 include Health & Wellness and Media & Communication Studies. As part of this curriculum expansion, Converse has reorganized academic divisions to best reflect current programs, to include the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the School of Business and Data Science, the School of the Arts, and The Graduate School.



## May Day Weekend Celebrates Families

On May 3-4, 2024, Converse welcomes all families and friends to join us for May Day Weekend. This fun-filled event will be the perfect opportunity for parents to visit their students, share in Converse's rich traditions, and experience life on campus. Guests will enjoy food, fellowship, and so much more! Events include Dinner in Gee, dessert on the Johnson Plaza, several celebratory ceremonies, a Fun Run/Walk, opportunities to appreciate the arts, and more. See the details at [converse.edu/familyweekend](https://converse.edu/familyweekend).



## Hopkins at the Helm

*Converse University celebrated the investiture of its twelfth president, Boone J. Hopkins, Ph.D. on April 21, 2023, in Zimmerli Performance Center's Twichell Auditorium. The ceremony, held on Founder's Day, included three past presidents of Converse, local and state leaders, and delegates from nearly 50 colleges and universities across the country. Snap the QR code or visit [converse.edu/inauguration](https://converse.edu/inauguration) to read the full story, watch the ceremony, and check out photos.*

