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# WE Foster Wise Leaders WILL



“I am incredibly grateful that I chose Converse for my education. The professors, athletics, and student life have pushed me to be the best student I could be.”

-Chloe Cleland '25  
*Converse's first Fulbright Research  
Scholarship recipient in more  
than 50 years*

# CONVERSE MAGAZINE

## Class of 2025 Makes History

On May 17, Converse celebrated its largest graduating class in history, with 222 undergraduates receiving degrees.

The Class of 2025 goes forth with purpose, shaped by hands-on research, internships, and a passion for service.

Discover more about this record-breaking class and our other Commencement celebrations on our website!



# Reunion Weekend

More than 200 Converse alumni gathered on April 25-26 to reunite with old friends, walk down memory lane, and see how our campus has transformed over the years. It was quite the celebration for the Class of 1975, who were inducted into the Golden Club during Founder's Day and named champions of the "It's a Class Act" giving challenge!

Get a head start on the 2026 "It's a Class Act" challenge with your gift to the Converse Fund today!

Visit [converse.edu/give](https://converse.edu/give)



# Rooted in Generosity

On April 26, a spirit of gratitude filled the President's home as we gathered for a garden party celebrating our most prestigious donors: members of the Dexter Edgar Converse and Mary Wilson Gee Societies.

Their support exemplifies a steadfast commitment to Converse, from transformative lifetime giving to legacy gifts that enrich our future.

Join one of these societies and empower the next generation of leaders with your gift.

Contact [giving@converse.edu](mailto:giving@converse.edu)



# May Day Weekend

Following the success of our inaugural May Day weekend last year, Converse once again welcomed students, their families & friends, faculty, and staff to join us for three days of celebration, fellowship, and time-honored traditions.



See full photo albums from all of our celebrations at [converse.edu/magazine](https://converse.edu/magazine)

# Celebrating 80 Years of Artistic Legacy

Those who step into Lawson Academy of the Arts enter a living legacy of artistic excellence that has enriched both Converse and the Spartanburg community since 1944.

Renamed in 2006 to honor Dr. Alia Ross Lawson, the Lawson Academy continues to offer music, dance, theatre, and arts education for students of all ages. Students not only refine their talents but also build confidence, leadership, and a deep love of the arts.

“ We have fantastic instructors, excellent programs, and a strong connection to our college campus. ”

*-Janae O'Shields '07 and '09  
Director of Lawson Academy of the Arts*

Whether it's a class, a private lesson, or a summer camp, Lawson Academy encourages students of all ages to embrace and grow their creative sides. Discover how you can be part of these exciting journeys at [converse.edu/lawson](https://converse.edu/lawson)



Read more about what the Converse community has been up to and view our upcoming events at [converse.edu/magazine](https://converse.edu/magazine)



AMERICAN IDOL JOURNEY



WELLNESS CENTER TRANSFORMS



VALKYRIES WIN MEN'S HAWN CUP