

# your CONNECTION

A Newsletter for Converse Alumni

Winter 2021

## A LOOK AT WHAT'S INSIDE

All About Your Alumni Association

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Dearest Alumni,

What a year we've all had. Since the last issue of *Your Connection*, our world has changed. The year 2020 brought with it new challenges, virtual communications, and hybrid events. It made us strive to adapt to new normals in our everyday lives.

Our beloved alma mater accomplished many great things even as we navigated through a pandemic. While you won't see as many gorgeous group photos of our alumni gathering together in person, I am proud of all we have to share with you. Our students thrived and learned in new ways each day, our faculty shifted the education paradigm to support students, and our community worked together to keep everyone safe as Converse moved forward into the future.

Your Alumni Association Board has been busy creating new ways to connect our alumni network, the campus has a fresh new look, and model-change progression is bringing new faces to Converse.

As we venture into a new year, I hope you will join me in celebrating the accomplishments of our Converse community as we move forward stronger, together.



Until we can gather with one another again, wishing you and yours health and happiness,

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica G. Eggimann '00".

**Jessica G. Eggimann '00**

Director of Alumni Relations & Advisory Boards

**P.S.** Be sure to watch President Newkirk's New Year's message at [www.converse.edu/newyear](http://www.converse.edu/newyear).



# GET THE 411 on the Converse Alumni Association

## The Converse Alumni Association Forms New Standing Committee

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEIC) was established during the summer of 2020 to create, support, and sustain alumni communities that reflect the diversity of our alumni population, reinforcing a mutual respect for each other and a sense of belonging and purpose within our collective Converse community. The DEIC will partner with

Converse's Office of Community and Inclusion in hosting diverse programming for students and alumni. Members of DEIC include: Jessica Backman '16, ex-officio; Melissia Brannen '03; Sophia Crawford-Mapp '13; Shenna Gaines '13; Sonya Gray '15; Rachel Hansen '08; Katy Kline '13; Christi Lewis '95, chair; Chunsta Miller '02; Cary Perkins '96; Libby Tilson '79; Miya Walker '14, co-chair; and Bonnie Webster '94.



## Become a Mentor

Did you know that the Office of Community and Inclusion at Converse has a mentoring program? The mentoring program provides opportunities for students and alumni to engage in mutually rewarding relationships focused on academic, personal, and professional goals. If you would like to mentor a Converse student, please let us know! Visit [www.converse.edu/mentor](http://www.converse.edu/mentor) and complete the form to be connected with Assistant Dean of Diversity and Inclusion, Danielle Stone and placed when a student becomes available.

## Seeking Nominations for 2022 Board Membership

Be a part of the action and join the Alumni Association Board! We are now accepting applications and nominations for 2022 Board membership. [www.converse.edu/AlumniBoardNominee](http://www.converse.edu/AlumniBoardNominee)

# Chapter HIGHLIGHTS

## The South Carolina Secret Connie Initiative

The TAPP Committee, a group focused on alumni engagement and connection, and the Spartanburg Chapter launched a 'Secret Connie' program this Fall. This initiative brings back the fun of the Big Sis/Lil Sis tradition—lifting each other's spirits' and uniting one another, while also maintaining the safety and wellbeing of our alumni. This December, while sporting their Valkyries masks, the Spartanburg Chapter hosted a 'Secret Connie' reveal party. Be sure to stay tuned...a Secret Connie initiative may be coming to an area near you!

## Houston Chapter Revitalized

We're a GO! Danielle Beckford '05, Aline Nahass '03, and Betsy Wittenmeyer '80 have banded together to re-establish the longstanding Chapter in Houston, Texas. The chapter launched this past summer with a virtual meet-and-greet and then celebrated the holiday season with a virtual 'Cocoa with Connies' Ugly Sweater competition and happy hour. The Houston Chapter also launched a Secret Connie program. To reacquaint yourself with alumni in the Houston area, be sure to follow them on Facebook @ **ConverseAlumChapterHouston** or shoot them an email at **conversehoustonchapter@gmail.com**.



# DID YOU KNOW?

The Alumni Board is working diligently to re-establish Chapters throughout the Southeast. If you are interested in co-chairing a chapter in your area, email **alumni@converse.edu**. Your TAPP Committee is here to help!



# HEALTHCARE HERO

## Resilience and Leadership on the Frontlines

*Upon graduating from Converse with a double major in French and Psychology, Marion obtained her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and her Masters of Science in Nursing. She is currently working on her Doctor of Nursing Practice with plans to complete her degree in December 2022. As nursing administrator and house supervisor, Marion works with Saint Francis Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA; Fountain Valley Regional Hospital in Orange County, CA; Huntington Beach Hospital in Orange County, CA; and Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, NY. Read on to learn more about her current position and how the COVID-19 pandemic has shaped her perspective on healthcare.*

### Marion Sibley Yates '01



#### **What does a day in the life of a Registered Nurse entail?**

I am a registered nurse who is a house supervisor (also called nursing administrator). Essentially, my job entails administrative responsibility for the entire hospital at night. I work 12-hour night shifts and function as an extension of the chief executive officer and chief nursing officer. I address patient care, staffing, complaints, and ensure the hospital continues to run smoothly and according to budget. I am in this role in three hospitals in California, and one in New York City. I travel to my New York hospital once a month, and have continued to do so throughout the pandemic.

#### **What is your favorite part of your position?**

I love the challenges each day brings, and I enjoy the fast-paced environment. I can truly say I love every minute of my job. I love to problem-solve and think on my feet. I also enjoy being a resource and mentor for staff in the hospital.

#### **What's the most challenging part of your job and how do you manage it?**

One of the hardest parts of my job is dealing with stressed-out staff. Mostly, staff need someone who will listen to them and provide encouraging feedback. This is what I do best.

### ***How has your role or perspective changed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?***

I was working in my New York hospital when the pandemic hit New York City. California was a few months behind, so I took tips and suggestions from New York back to my hospitals in California to better prepare them. The COVID-19 pandemic has truly put my leadership skills to the test. My role took on new responsibilities: ensuring there were COVID screeners at all entrances to the hospital to protect our staff and patients, dealing with frustrated and upset family members unable to visit their loved ones in the hospital, ensuring there were adequate staff to care for our patients, and ensuring adequate supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE). The hardest part of this year has been losing some of my colleagues to COVID. Also, staff have been more stressed this year, and many have left the profession entirely. I have listened to staff as they cried in frustration over this virus, and sadness for patients lost. I've tried my best to bring my team together and increase morale. Sometimes, I just show up to different units and get people to do a line dance in the middle of the night- anything to make people smile during these difficult times.

Some days, especially early in the pandemic, it would take me a few hours just to prepare myself mentally for the shift ahead. I've found my days have grown longer, especially with the amount of additional things I must do to ensure I don't bring home COVID to my family. I wipe down the interior of my car as I get out of it, then my shoes and clothes come off in the garage and go immediately into the wash, then I shower.

### ***With such a demanding position, what do you like to do outside of work to relax?***

I enjoy my time with my wife and animals, and catching up on the latest TV shows. Since I travel

to NYC once a month, I've enjoyed watching the city slowly rebound and come back to life from the devastation of COVID.

### ***How did your Converse experience help play a role in what you're doing today?***

Converse enhanced my skills as a female leader. Converse instilled the belief that I could do anything I wanted, regardless of my gender. In essence, Converse made me believe in myself. I rely on my background as a Psychology major a lot more than I sometimes realize. Also, my major in French has provided me with the ability to communicate with some of our French-speaking patients, and laid the foundation for me to successfully learn a third language, Tagalog.

### ***What was your favorite thing at Converse?***

Everything. Some of my happiest memories were of Converse. I made so many life-long friends, and I loved living on campus. I loved the professors, especially Monica McCoy and Cathy West, with whom I am still in contact today. All of the professors are leaders, and instill leadership qualities in their students. I was also a Tarpon Sharks team member, and really enjoyed that.

### ***What are some of the ways you stay connected and engaged with Converse?***

Attending reunions, participating in the Annual Fund, and being connected with classmates via Facebook.

### ***What is something that most people might not know about you?***

I am a licensed All-breed Cat Judge for The International Cat Association, flying 100,000 miles (pre-COVID) annually to judge shows around the globe.



# LOYAL GIVING

## An Alumna's Commitment to Converse

*Stacey, a technical writer and editor at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC, graduated from Converse in 2001 with a double major in Theatre and English. A faithful and committed donor since graduation – making her first gift of \$20.01 in honor of her class year – Stacey chooses to help bolster Converse through monthly giving. Read on to learn more about her current position, her connections to the campus, and why she remains a long-time supporter of Converse.*

### Stacey Mulligan '01



#### **What is a typical day like in the National Archives and Records Administration?**

My office provides access to the official text of Federal laws, Presidential documents, and administrative regulations and notices. My days are spent working with executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government to ensure their general and permanent rules (located in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)) are updated correctly by reviewing their proposed and final amendments to the CFR for format and accuracy.

#### **What is your favorite part of your position?**

I like the fact that no two documents are exactly the same. There is always something new and different to review. I work with the entire Federal Government, so I can go from reviewing a document about airspace (for airplanes) to a document about catch limits for fisheries to a document setting out safety requirements for cribs. Not knowing what will come in from one day to the next means that work is always exciting and sometimes stressful!

#### **What's the most challenging part of your job and how do you manage it?**

My office receives a steady stream of documents from federal agencies, and we must review them for accuracy and get them published on a deadline. You have to have exceptional time management/organization skills to stay on top of all the documents

you are reviewing, where each document is in the review process, what special publication request specific documents might have, etc. To help keep track of where I am in the review process, I've created a system that allows me to easily pick up where I left off and publish documents in a timely manner.

### ***How did your Converse degree help you in your current field?***

I was a double major in Theatre and English. I was also a member of the South Carolina Institute of Leadership for Women (SCIL), later the Converse College Institute for Leadership. Studying for a double major, while also being involved in extracurricular activities and Converse's leadership program, taught me the importance of time management and organization. For example, working as a stage manager (keeping actors and stage crew on task, running shows each night, being the point of contact for issues), was invaluable experience in working with a wide range of people/personalities, the ability to troubleshoot, and multitasking. Those skills have been so important as I work with so many different people on documents across a wide range of topics.

### ***What motivates you to support the Converse Annual Fund as a monthly giver?***

I give back to Converse because I found value in what Converse gave to me. The skills I gained and honed as a student at Converse are what have propelled me forward in my career, why I am so good at what I do. I want to ensure that Converse can continue the work of educating and empowering for generations to come.

### ***Why do you think it's important for others to give to Converse?***

I think it's important to give because I think Converse's mission to educate and empower is important. An educated and empowered individual will go out into their community and give back,

because they will understand the importance of what they were given and will want to pay it forward. I want to give Converse the opportunity to continue that mission.

### ***In what other ways do you stay connected to Converse and your classmates?***

I stay connected to Converse and my classmates via social media (Facebook, Twitter, email, etc.). My time at Converse gave me a solid group of friends that I'm blessed to have in my life to this day. Beyond knowing I could go out into the world confident in my ability to take on any challenge life could throw at me, my time at Converse also set me up with life-long friendships that I cherish. I think that is why I still feel so connected to Converse.

### ***What excites you about the Converse of today?***

I'm most excited to see Converse move forward. These are tough times for higher education, and I know that it takes a lot to survive. I like that Converse is moving forward in a thoughtful manner, maintaining the core values that make the school so special. I hope to see Converse continue to thrive and work to educate and empower far into the future.

### ***What is one fun need-to-know fact about you?***

I'm a crazy cat lady! My kitties are named Domino and Charmin and, collectively, I call them the BDs (short for Benevolent Dictators).

### ***What is your favorite memory of Converse as a student?***

This is a hard question, because I have so many! When I look back on my time at Converse, I think what sticks with me the most is that I felt like I was in a community of like-minded individuals who supported me. Having that support gave me the ability to explore and ask questions and make mistakes and find solutions, and those are the things that ultimately helped me thrive as a student and a person.

# CONVERSE COUPLE

## Nurtures New Growth Through Creativity and Innovation

*Linda “Jef” Glenn ’71 and her husband Edward Glenn ’70 met while students at Converse. Jef received a BA in French and Art History, and Ed was one of the first men to earn a Bachelor’s in Music from Converse. After graduation, Jef and Ed attended the American Floral Art School in Chicago before moving to Greenville, NC, to run Jefferson Florist, a floral business founded by Jef’s parents in 1948. In 1994 they expanded and founded New Growth Designs, a company that produces high-end artificial flowers, plants, and trees. Jef and Ed have three children: Kathryn Glenn, Michael Glenn, and Taylor Glenn. Read on to discover what inspires this duo about their industry and what advice they might have for someone looking to grow a business.*

**Linda “Jef” Glenn ’71  
and Edward Glenn ’70**



### **What does a day in the life of a floral business owner entail?**

Jefferson Florist is unique in that we not only create floral arrangements but that we also have a full-service wine shop and sell gourmet gift baskets, home accessories, and stationary. Our daily routine involves communication with growers and brokers to secure the freshest available products while also organizing daily orders, managing design and delivery.

### **What is your favorite part about running a business?**

One of the most rewarding and enjoyable aspects of being in the floral business is being a part of the role that flowers play in conveying a message or sentiment. Whether it's creating an arrangement or engaging with a customer at the shop, our business allows us to connect with people and be a part of their story. We take great satisfaction in doing that through flowers and gifts appropriate for the occasion.

### **When you decided to expand your business with the launch of New Growth Designs, you were introducing change to the faux plant industry. What were some of the initial challenges and how were you able to overcome it?**

We came to the realization that the fragility of fresh



flowers when dealing with large events could be challenging. Our response was to create a line of faux flowers that could imitate and capture the spirit of fresh flowers. In our event planning and execution, we began introducing New Growth Design faux flowers alongside our fresh arrangements. After assessing our new line, the next move was to put these faux creations into the marketplace. From High Point International Furniture Market to trade shows in New York, Atlanta, and Tokyo, we were thrilled to see that New Growth Design was embraced by boutiques, designers, and high-end retailers. Once we built a love for the brand and buyers were able to experience the quality of the product themselves, our new venture found its way to numerous museum catalogues and high-end retailers like Saks Fifth Avenue, Neiman Marcus, and Tiffany & Co.

***What advice can you provide to those who want to start a new business venture?***

Believe in yourself! Be willing to take the risk!

***As a husband-and-wife work duo, what do the two of you like to do outside of the office to relax?***

New Growth Designs has given us the opportunity share our product line around the world. We love to use those special occasions to travel together and explore different places we might not typically get to discover.

***[Edward] What was it like being one of the first men to attend Converse? And, how do your Converse experiences help you to run a successful business today?***

Being one of the only men on campus was a bit frightening at first! But, I soon settled in. After all, what's not to like about being surrounded by smart, driven young ladies? My liberal arts education and experiences at Converse provided me a unique perspective that put me on the path forward. Floral

design in itself is art so receiving my Bachelor of Music from the Petrie School of Music makes perfect sense. And, as the proprietor of a florist and wine shop, I feel uniquely qualified. After all, Monsieur Charles Bouton, my Converse professor insisted that we experience the wines and foods of the region while studying at the Sorbonne and studying abroad in France. Those experiences still serve me well today.

***How did the two of you meet at Converse and what are some of your favorite Converse memories?***

We met during the theatre production of Macbeth. Ed was playing Macduff and I was behind the scenes serving as a member of the props staff. The semester was coming to an end and Ed was preparing to leave to study abroad his junior year. We didn't have much time to get to know each other on campus so we became pen pals – the rest is history.

## Tell Us YOUR STORY

*Wherever life takes you, be sure to let us know where you are and what you're up to. Use Converse as a resource for connecting with fellow classmates, growing your career network, and helping others.*

### CLASS NOTES ARE ONLINE

Class Notes are an important part of the Converse connection and we want to make it even easier to stay engaged with your classmates.

#### *Finding Class Notes*

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

Password: Converse1889

#### *Submitting Class Notes*

Click on the purple button labeled "Tell Your Story" and share your news with us!

### STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

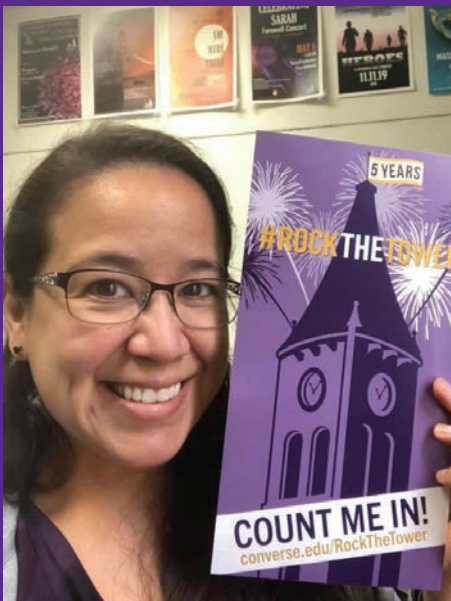
Check out our user guide at [converse.edu/ClassNotes](https://converse.edu/ClassNotes) or send an email to [classnotes@converse.edu](mailto:classnotes@converse.edu).



# FIVE CHEERS

Converse Celebrates Largest Annual Day of Giving

# FOR FIVE YEARS



Converse's 5th annual day of giving, Rock the Tower, **raised more than \$146,610, a 6.7% increase over last year.** Gifts received benefit scholarships, academic enhancements, athletics programs, and departments around campus that strengthen the student experience.

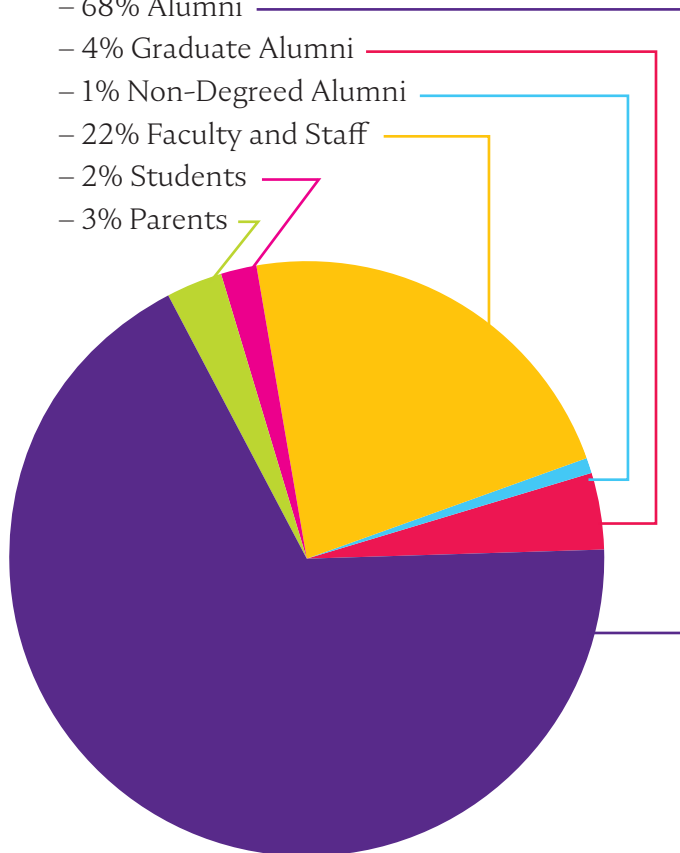
At the stroke of midnight on November 12, Rock the Tower took over the Converse website and social media raising campus-wide support and awareness. Alumni, faculty, staff, students, parents, and friends continued to rally support all the way up to the final moments before the campaign ended at midnight.

"Rock the Tower is more than the amount of money raised – it's about the Converse community connecting on social media; it's voicing appreciation for how you were impacted by your alma mater; and it's about providing opportunities that positively impact students, support faculty, and so much more," explains Kristina Pisano, Director of Annual Giving.

## By the Numbers

- Total Amount Raised: \$146,610
- Total Number of Gifts Received: 583
- Total Number of Donors: 536
- Number of new donors: 36
- Types of Donor:

- 68% Alumni
- 4% Graduate Alumni
- 1% Non-Degreed Alumni
- 22% Faculty and Staff
- 2% Students
- 3% Parents



## Superlatives

- **Early Bird Award** for *First Gift of the Day*:  
Mary Martin Witt '71
- **Night Owl Award** for *Last Gift of the Day*:  
Liz Hardig-DeGraff '20 (Graduate Alumna)
- **All Aboard Award** for the *Class with Highest Participation*: Class of 1999
- **Altruistic Award** for the *Class with Highest Amount Raised*: Class of 1989

Even though Rock the Tower is over, you can still support the area at Converse that matters to you. Gifts of any size can make a big impact!

[www.converse.edu/give](http://www.converse.edu/give)





# NEWS from around campus

## THE 2020 DEXTER EDGAR CONVERSE AWARD

*The highest award bestowed by Converse is the Dexter Edgar Converse Award. It is presented to individuals who bring honor to the College through their leadership, generosity, and involvement, both in the Converse community and in their own communities. This year, Converse honored two recipients posthumously, for their steadfast devotion and unwavering commitment to our students and our institution.*

### **Carolyn Duer Pennell '50**

Carolyn came to Converse in the fall of 1946 from her hometown of Exmore, Virginia. She was a graduate of the class of 1950 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. As a dedicated alumna, Carolyn held many roles including:



- Alumnae House Hostess from 1986 to 1988,
- President of the Alumnae Board from 1990 to 1992,
- Chair of the 1989 Alumnae Day,
- Chair of the Inaugural Committee in 1994, and
- Class Fund Chair in 1996 and 1999.

Additionally, she was a member of the 1889 Society,

the Miss Gee Society, and the Board of Visitors. Carolyn received numerous awards for her service to Converse:

- The Converse 100 Award,
- the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award,
- the Mae Elizabeth Kilgo Spirit Award,
- and the Converse 125 Award.

For her lifelong dedication to the College and her joyous spirit that benefitted so many, Converse honored Carolyn Duer Pennell '50 posthumously with the 2020 Dexter Edgar Converse award.

### **Dr. Jeffrey Willis**

Many campuses have that one standout “legend”: someone who has seen the people, the landscape and the trends of a community change from decade to decade. For Converse College, that someone was Dr. Jeffrey Willis, Director of Archives and Special Collections and Andrew Helmus Professor of History Emeritus.

Dr. Willis was an intensely private man whose tender, purposeful way of speaking could capture anyone’s attention—his sessions at Converse’s on-campus reunions were always standing room only. During the last five decades, Dr. Willis has been an inspiration and a friend to Converse faculty, staff and students.

For his dedication to the preservation of Converse history and for his pursuit of scholarly knowledge, Converse College honored Dr. Jeffrey R. Willis posthumously with the 2020 Dexter Edgar Converse award.

Watch Converse's video tribute to Dr. Jeff Willis and read more from the people who knew him best at [www.converse.edu/willis](http://www.converse.edu/willis).



If you would like to support Converse in memory of Dr. Willis, you can support the Jeffrey Willis Scholarship Endowment at [www.converse.edu/give](http://www.converse.edu/give). Select "other" under 'I want to support' and type in "Jeffrey Willis Scholarship Endowment."

## CHEERS TO 20 YEARS!

The 2020-2021 academic year marks the 20th anniversary of the Nisbet Honors Program at Converse College. This milestone testifies not only to the quality of education that Converse provides but also to the overwhelming generosity of Marian McGowan Nisbet '62 and to her dedication to the success of Converse students for generations to come.



This year also honors the hard work of hundreds of honors alumnae who took advantage of the opportunities that the program offered. We are deeply grateful for Ms. Nisbet's kindness and for our Nisbet graduates' commitment to academic excellence.

Converse is extremely proud of what the program and Nisbet Honors alumnae have accomplished. Visit [www.converse.edu/Nisbet20](http://www.converse.edu/Nisbet20) to watch a video highlighting the Nisbet Honors Program and the unique contribution the program provides in sustaining the Converse mission.



## ALUMNAE HONORED WITH DISTINGUISHED 2020 CONVERSE AWARDS



### **MARY MILDRED SULLIVAN AWARD**

***Mary Lib Spillers Hamilton '57***

Each year, Converse presents the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award to a member of the greater Spartanburg community, recognizing unselfish service, dedication to sharing with others, and humane participation in the life of her community. The service of the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award recipient makes her an example to all of us at Converse, one to whom we look for inspiration.



### **KATHRYNE AMELIA BROWN AWARD**

***Emily Harbin '99***

The Kathryne Amelia Brown Award was established at Converse College by the late Mr. and Mrs. James Douglas Brown of Ozark, Alabama, in memory of their daughter, a member of the class of 1970, to recognize faculty members who have excelled in the classroom.



### **JOE ANN LEVER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

***Jessica Backman '16***

Converse's Joe Ann Lever Award of Excellence is a particularly prestigious award because it is bestowed by the members of the senior class to one person who has done the most to enhance the quality of the student experience at the college.

For the latest faculty appointments, alumni spotlights, student achievements, community news, videos, events and more, visit [www.converse.edu/news](http://www.converse.edu/news).



## CAMPUS FACELIFT RALLIES VALKYRIES PRIDE

As you walk across campus, it's hard to miss updates that have made to a few of Converse's more well-visited areas. With a little paint, some new furniture, and a bit of elbow grease, Converse has renewed spaces on campus thanks in part to Rock the Tower funding. Updates over summer 2020 included the Montgomery Student Center, Dalton Lobby in Wilson Hall, Lawson Academy of the Arts, Milliken 201, and the lobby in Carmichael Hall. The purpose of these updates was to provide a more comfortable and inviting gathering place for students, faculty, staff, and guests. Converse has plans to continue to revitalize spaces across campus in 2021. Opportunities for funding campus improvements are still available. Contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 864.596.9011 to learn more.



Dalton Lobby, Wilson Hall



Dalton Lobby, Wilson Hall



Lawson Academy of the Arts



Milliken 201



Carmichael Hall



New Outdoor Seating Across Campus



# COVID-19 update

After successfully returning to campus during an unprecedented year, it is evident that Converse is able to support a healthy learning and living environment through the hard work of faculty, staff, and students.

While 2021 will come with its own set of challenges, the Converse community's commitment to wearing masks, adhering to physical distancing, and being conscientious throughout campus will ensure

another successful semester. Using a flexible learning model which includes elements of face-to-face, online, hybrid, and blended instruction and activities, students will receive the support they need for a thriving spring term.

To learn more about Converse's COVID-19 plans to ensure the health and safety of our campus community, visit [www.converse.edu/covid](http://www.converse.edu/covid).



# LOOKING AHEAD

## Important Information and Updates

### MODEL CHANGE

In fall 2020, Converse expanded its undergraduate residential program from single-gender to co-ed. In addition, Converse is embracing its 55-year history as a graduate degree-granting institution with a name change from college to university effective July 1, 2021. Under the university umbrella, Converse will maintain a Converse College for Women. These efforts will ensure a thriving future for Converse as it continues to build on its history of academic excellence.

Learn more! [www.converse.edu/coed-university](http://www.converse.edu/coed-university)

### NEW MARKETING CAMPAIGN

As we plan for the rollout of our name change to Converse University on July 1, 2021, we have begun the introduction of a new brand and marketing campaign for Converse that captures the energy and optimism our campus has for the future as well as Converse's "can do" attitude. Be on the lookout for more to come!



## ALUM? ALUMNA? ALUMNI?

An alumnus or an alumna of a college, university, or other school is a former student who has either attended or graduated in some fashion from the institution. The word is Latin and simply means *student*. The plural is alumni for men and mixed groups and alumnae for women.

**ALUMNA** single female graduate

**ALUMNAE (KNEE)** plural two or more female graduates

**ALUMNUS** a single male graduate

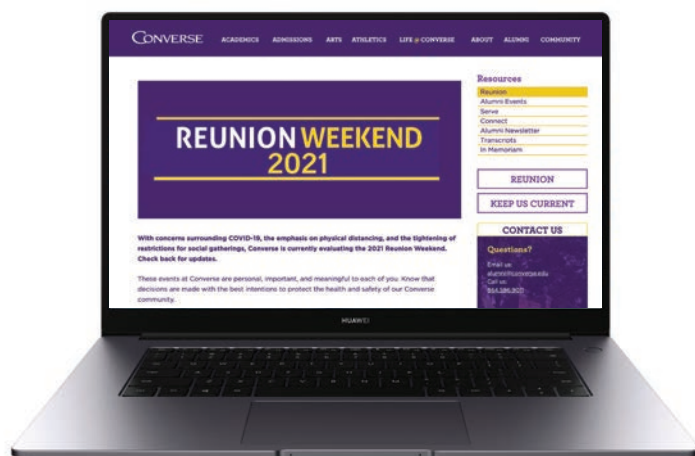
**ALUMNI (EYE)** plural male and/or female graduates



## WOMEN'S COLLEGE: BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

Interested in knowing more about the Women's College?  
Learn about plans for fall 2021 in this short video  
featuring Dr. Chandra Owenby Hopkins, first Dean of  
the Converse College for Women, effective July 1, 2021.

Learn more! [www.converse.edu/womenscollegevideo](http://www.converse.edu/womenscollegevideo)



## REUNION WEEKEND GOES VIRTUAL

We look forward to all alumni joining us for a virtual Reunion celebration June 4-6, 2021. From the Alumni Awards to an Art Exhibit to *Mixology 101: Cocktails with Classmates* — there will be special moments for all of us to connect and honor our beloved Converse alumni community.

Learn more! [www.converse.edu/reunion](http://www.converse.edu/reunion)

## ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY

Converse recently launched the “Converse Guarantee”—a program guaranteeing undergraduate students will graduate in 4 years and gain employment or graduate school acceptance within 6 months after graduation. Students beginning their coursework at Converse in Fall 2021 will be eligible for the Converse Guarantee. The program will be retroactively applied to current Converse students who qualify.



The Converse Guarantee expands upon Converse’s commitment to the affordability and accessibility of private, high-quality education. In fall 2020, the institution announced a tuition freeze for the 2021–2022 academic year. In 2014 Converse reduced tuition for its students by 43 percent, and its tuition is 53 percent below the national average for private schools.

Learn more! [www.converse.edu/converse-guarantee](http://www.converse.edu/converse-guarantee)



### Campus Events

Due to uncertainties over the COVID-19 pandemic, be sure to visit [www.converse.edu/events](http://www.converse.edu/events) for the latest updates on campus events such as Founders Day, A Thousand Thanks, and Commencement.





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Spartanburg, SC 29302

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# let's stay connected

Share your updated email address with Converse to receive the latest news  
and events from across campus. [www.Converse.edu/KeepUsCurrent](http://www.Converse.edu/KeepUsCurrent)

CONVERSE