

# your CONNECTION

A Newsletter for Converse Alumni

February 2025



When members of the Class of 1973 returned to campus for their 50th Reunion and saw that the Andrews Hall lobby was in need of an update, they came together to make it happen. The group of friends set about to raise money for a redesign of the space, and after consulting with current Converse interior design students, the lobby updates were unveiled during a special campus visit in September.

As the group sat together in the newly refurbished space, they enjoyed spending time catching up and reminiscing about their Converse years. Anne Collins Conover reflected on why she felt it's important to give back. "We're paying it forward for everything that Converse did for us," Conover said. "I know how important my dorm experience was to me when I was a student here. I care about today's students and their experience at Converse."

The newly renovated space features modern furniture, art, and a flat-screen TV, along with fresh paint and window treatments. This project is part of Converse's efforts to further enhance the student experience and to transform our residence halls and community spaces.



**A LOOK AT  
WHAT'S INSIDE**

Andrews Hall Update  
Letter from the Alumni Director  
Reunion Weekend 2025

Special Reunion Events  
Alumni Event Highlights  
Converse Fund Challenge

# LETTER From Alumni Director

As I look back on my first year serving as Director of Alumni Relations, I'm struck by what a privilege it has been to share life with so many of you. Over these past months, I've gained a deeper appreciation for the strength and diversity of our Converse family. Thank you for sharing your successes and modeling grace and humanity in your difficulties.

The Alumni Association has been active with gatherings this fall, and we've cherished every moment connecting with Converse family and sharing all the good things happening on campus. We hope you'll join us for more gatherings in 2025!

Our alumni volunteers have been hard at work this term, from welcoming new students to campus in the fall to supporting career development via classroom visits and networking events. Alumni have also shown incredible generosity as donors. Many of you joined in the excitement of Rock the Tower, where we raised an amazing \$200,000 for Converse in just one day! Now, I eagerly await the results of our annual "It's a Class Act" competition for The Converse Fund— get your donation in by Monday, April 21.

Be sure to join us at Reunion 2025 on April 24-26 to learn the results and revel in reconnecting with your classmates and friends. Classes ending in '0 and '5 have milestone celebrations, but all are welcome! When registering, you may select however many events you'd like *a la carte* or book a comprehensive weekend package.

For those of you entering the Golden Club this year, you'll find exclusive events further down the registration form such as the Class of '75 weekend package. All Golden Club members are invited to join us for Mimosas and Robing to welcome your newest initiates before they process into the Founder's Day convocation on Friday, April 25.

As we continue into this new year, I hope you will join me in celebrating the accomplishments of our Converse community. Here's to health and happiness for you and yours in 2025!

Warmly,



Andrea Weatherman Kikkert '05



# REUNION WEEKEND

## April 24-26, 2025



Reunion Weekend at Converse is a time for all alumni to return home to our beloved 580 East Main and celebrate the vibrant spirit that defined their days on campus. Take a stroll down memory lane, reconnect with old friends, foster new connections, and witness Converse's remarkable transformation.

### GOLDEN CLUB SCHEDULE

#### Thursday, April 24

##### Share Your Story

1:30–4:30 pm, Mickel Library or Wilson Hall  
*Reflect on your college days and share memories with current students, for the archives.*

##### Class of 1975 Registration

2:00–4:00 pm, Wilson Hall, Front Porch

##### Class of 1975 Reception & Dinner\*

6:00–9:00 pm, Country Club of Spartanburg

#### Friday, April 25

##### Golden Club Mimosas and Robing\*

10:00–11:00 am, Admissions Suite  
*All Golden Club members are invited to join the Class of 1975 as they get robed and ready for the Founder's Day Procession.*



**Register Today!**  
[converse.edu/reunion](https://converse.edu/reunion)



# GENERAL SCHEDULE

**Friday, April 25**

## Founder's Day

11:30 am–12:30 pm, Twichell Auditorium  
*Golden Club processes with faculty and students. You do not have to be registered to attend Founder's Day.*

## Traditional Lunch on the Lawn with Strawberries and Cream

12:30–1:30 pm, Front Campus

## Registration

1:00–4:00 pm, Wilson Hall, Front Porch

## Late Registration

4:00 pm – 4:00 pm Saturday, Lee Parlor

## Afternoon Activities

### RISE Symposium Drop-In

1:00–4:00 pm, Montgomery 2nd Floor  
*Posters from the 2025 RISE Symposium will be on display. RISE showcases students' creative and scholarly achievements as well as the outstanding mentorship of our faculty.*

### Life After Converse

1:30–2:30 pm, Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning – Mickel Library  
*The Converse College for Women and the Center for Career Development present an opportunity to join current students and hear from a panel of accomplished alums as they detail their lives post-Converse.*

### Let's Get Back to Class

3:00–3:50 pm, Various Classrooms  
*Step back in time and enjoy a class with some of Converse's beloved professors. The best part: NO homework or tests!*

### Model Programs Demo

4:00–5:00 pm, Hartness Auditorium  
*Meet current members of Model Arab League and Model NATO and witness a live debate simulation with faculty advisor, Dr. Joe Dunn.*

## Lobby Hop

4:00–5:00 pm, Various Residence Halls  
*Get a sense of the residential experience as current students guide you on a tour of some of our residence hall lobbies and rooms.*

## Hopkins Happy Hour\*

5:00–6:00 pm, Wilson Hall  
*Raise a glass with President Boone Hopkins and Dean Chandra Hopkins, as we celebrate the Class of 2025 and connect with current seniors, faculty, and staff—both past and present!*

## All Class BBQ & DJ Dance Party\*

6:00–10:00 pm, Front Campus  
*Enjoy dinner and dance the night away with classmates and friends!*

## Saturday, April 26

### All Class Photo

10:00–10:15 am, Steps of Carmichael

### Class Photos/Alumni Engagement Expo

10:15–11:15 am, Carmichael, Mickel Library  
*Join your class for a group photo and learn from alumni and campus leaders about contributing to the greater Converse community.*

### Class Parade

11:00 am, Line up in front of Carmichael  
11:15 am, Parade Begins  
*Gather along the sidewalk for the traditional Parade of Classes to the Barnet Patio.*

### Awards Ceremony & State of the University Address

11:30 am–12:30 pm, Barnet Room-Montgomery  
*Join in a toast to the Golden Club and our 2025 Alumni Achievement Award recipients. President Hopkins will also deliver the State of the University address.*

### Lunch\*

12:30–2:00 pm, Gee Dining Hall

## Afternoon Activities

### Mosaic: Black Alumni Celebration

12:30–1:30 pm, SGA Suite-Montgomery  
*Black, African, and African-American alumni have been, and continue to be, impactful contributors to the Converse community. This will be a time for Black alums to meet each other and learn more about the important history of Black alumni at Converse.*

### Alumni Author Spotlight:

#### Meet Andrew Clark '21

1:15–2:00 pm, Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning - Mickel Library  
*Join Andrew K. Clark '21, award-winning writer from Asheville, NC, for a captivating reading and discussion of his new novel, Where Dark Things Grow.*

### Lavender Tea: LGBTQIA+ Alumni Celebration

1:30–2:30 pm, Zimmerli Commons  
*Converse's LGBTQIA+ alumni are a catalyst for creating community and emphasizing the importance of belonging to the Converse campus. Join us for an inclusive celebration focusing on conversation and connection.*

### Voces de Mañana:

#### Hispanic Alumni Celebration

2:00–3:00 pm, SGA Suite - Montgomery  
*Converse's Hispanic and Latino alumni share a strong legacy of student leadership and community engagement. Come celebrate their accomplishments and share in hopeful visions for the future.*

### Volleyball Alumni Game

2:30–3:30 pm, Weisiger Center  
*Come cheer on former Valkyries who still have all the skills.*



### Alumni Recital

3:00–4:00 pm, Daniel Recital Hall  
*Join this low-pressure affair full of laughter, love, and great music. To participate in the performance, email [mildred.roche@converse.edu](mailto:mildred.roche@converse.edu) by March 26.*

### Closing Reception\*

4:00–5:00 pm, Milliken Gallery  
*Toast a wonderful Reunion and take any last photos while you admire the work of Caitlin Kilpatrick '25.*

### Class Celebrations

5:00 pm – until, Determined by class  
*Following the Closing Reception, we encourage you and your classmates to take advantage of all downtown Spartanburg has to offer. Reminisce and reconnect with your closest Converse family.*

### Dance Capstone Performance

7:30–8:15 pm, Daniel Recital Hall  
*Join us for the premiere of three brand-new dance works, featuring original work by senior Converse dance majors, and help us celebrate the creativity and tenacity of our student choreographers!*

**Be sure to visit [converse.edu/reunion](https://www.converse.edu/reunion) for the full schedule and to register!**

## ADDITIONAL SATURDAY EVENTS

### Spartanburg Philharmonic Concert

Doors open at 6:00 pm; show begins at 7:00 pm  
Twichell Auditorium  
Visit [spartanburgphilharmonic.org](https://spartanburgphilharmonic.org) to purchase tickets

### Converse Campus Events

Visit <https://www.converse.edu/campus-events/> for a full calendar and ticket information.

# FALL 2024 Event Highlights

## LAKE SUMMIT, NC AUGUST 2024

Hosted by Betty James Montgomery '72, Lillian Montgomery Lilly, and Rose Montgomery Johnston



## AUGUSTA, GA SEPTEMBER 2024

Hosted by local alumni at the home of the late Kat Barnett McCall '84



## ATLANTA, GA OCTOBER 2024

Hosted by Shannon Givens Jaynes '93



## ATLANTA, GA NOVEMBER 2024

A family-friendly gathering, hosted by Deidre Tindal Fuqua '07 and Stacy Thrall Jones '07



## RECONNECT WITH CONVERSE

Join us for upcoming events to reunite with classmates, meet new alumni, and catch up with all things Converse! Visit [converse.edu/alumni/gather](https://converse.edu/alumni/gather) to stay up-to-date!



## LANDRUM, SC

### NOVEMBER 2024

Hosted at the home of Dr. Elizabeth Blanchard Joyce '89 by Dr. Brant Bynum, Dr. Melissa Walker, Dr. Thomas McDaniel, Dr. Malinda Maxfield Tulloh, Mr. Frazer S. M. Pajak AIA, Dr. Delia G. Malone, Dr. Robert W. Powell, Jr., and Mr. John M. Bald



## SPARTANBURG, SC

### NOVEMBER 2024

A Spartanburg Chapter Event; hosted at Fretwell by Tori Good '22, Jennifer Barksdale '16, and Rhonda Mingo



## CHARLOTTE, NC

### DECEMBER 2024

Hosted by Lisa Bell Dargan '84, Cindy Greene Goldsmith '96, Susan Williams Lynch '89, Rachel Stanley MacBain '79, Austin Faulk Nantz '95, Wallace Davison Prestwood '89, Linda Layman Redding '88, Natalie Audish Scott '92, and Patti Maxwell Snow '88

