

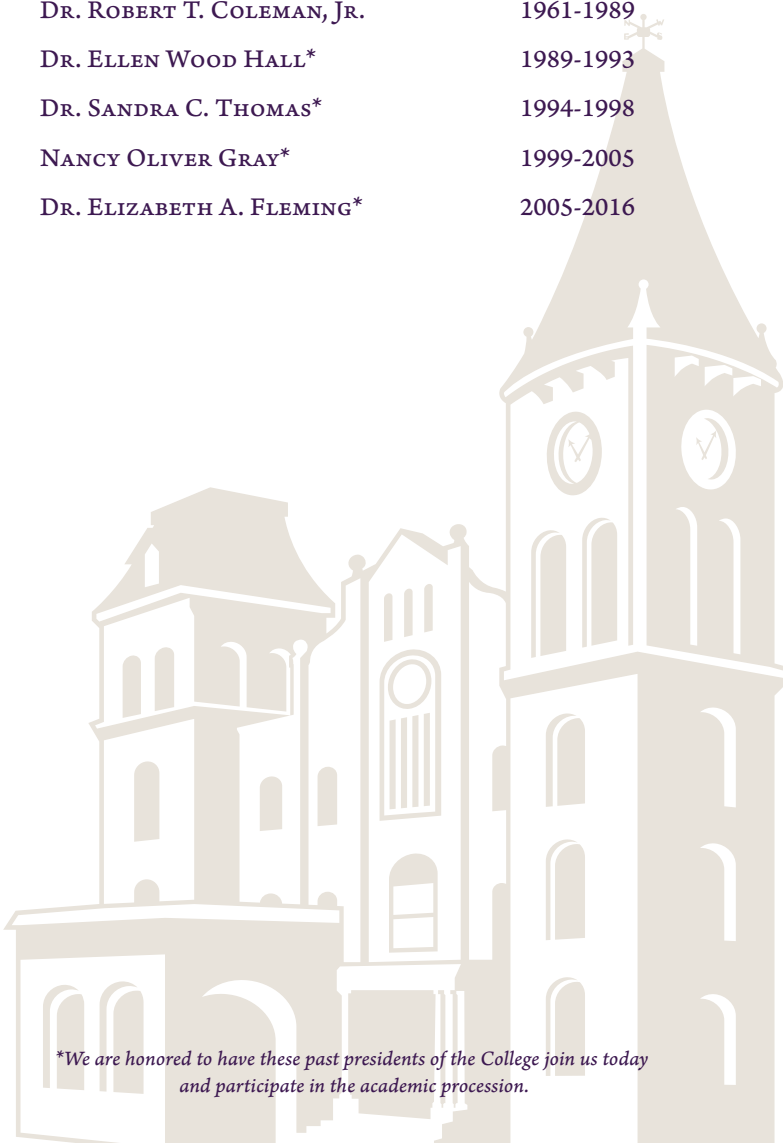
The Inauguration of
KRISTA L. NEWKIRK, JD
TENTH PRESIDENT



FRIDAY, THE TWENTY-FIRST *of* APRIL
TWO THOUSAND AND SEVENTEEN

❧ PAST PRESIDENTS OF CONVERSE COLLEGE ❧

REVEREND BENJAMIN F. WILSON	1890-1902
DR. ROBERT PAINE PELL	1902-1932
DR. EDWARD MOSELEY GWATHMEY	1933-1955
DR. OLIVER CROMWELL CARMICHAEL, JR.	1956-1960
DR. ROBERT T. COLEMAN, JR.	1961-1989
DR. ELLEN WOOD HALL*	1989-1993
DR. SANDRA C. THOMAS*	1994-1998
NANCY OLIVER GRAY*	1999-2005
DR. ELIZABETH A. FLEMING*	2005-2016



**We are honored to have these past presidents of the College join us today and participate in the academic procession.*

❧ KRISTA L. NEWKIRK, JD ❧



Krista L. Newkirk, a distinguished member of the legal and higher education communities, assumed the presidency of Converse College on July 1, 2016. Prior to joining the Converse community, she served as chief of staff for the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. President Newkirk brings to Converse deep-rooted commitments to academic excellence, diversity and inclusion, collaboration across institutional divisions, and the value of the liberal arts in advancing our global society.

Newkirk spent her formative years on a cattle ranch in Missouri before attending the University of Missouri's Honor College on scholarship. After two years, she transferred to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she graduated one year later in 1993 in the top 5% of her class with an undergraduate degree in English and a minor in Philosophy. She went on to earn her Juris Doctor degree from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William & Mary in 1998. While in law school, she served as editor-in-chief of the *William & Mary Journal of Women and the Law*, clerked with the Newport News Commonwealth Attorney's Office, received the Marshall-Wythe Gambrell Professionalism Award, and was selected the Outstanding Woman Law Graduate by the National Association of Women Lawyers.

After working for several years as an attorney in both private practice and at a Fortune 300 company, in 2003 Newkirk joined the Office of Legal Affairs at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. In 2012, she became the university's first chief of staff.

Newkirk was selected by her peers as a Legal Elite in the corporate counsel category by Business North Carolina in 2010. She is a graduate of Leadership North Carolina's Class XIX, and has served on a number of boards, including as Chair of the Education Section of the North Carolina Bar Association and on the Women + Girls Research Alliance.

President Newkirk is married to W. Lewis Glenn III, JD, and they have two sons: Holden, a sixth-grader at Spartanburg Day School; and Conrad, a sophomore at Spartanburg High School.

THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY

*PROCESSIONAL

"INTERNATIONAL LIGHTNING TRUST PRELUDE"..... DR. S. DAVID BERRY
Professor of Musicology and Composition

CONVERSE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Dr. Siegwart Reichwald, Professor of Musicology
Conductor

"MARCH BY TORCHLIGHT".....ALEXANDRE GUILMANT (1837-1911)

DR. BRENNAN SZAFRON, ORGAN

*POSTING OF THE COLORS AND NATIONAL ANTHEM

SOUTHERN GUARDS BATTALION ARMY ROTC COLOR GUARD

ANNA NEELY '20, SOPRANO; CAROLINE BOSWORTH '18, MEZZO-SOPRANO;
LISA LOUW '18, MEZZO-SOPRANO

*INVOCATION THE REVEREND JASON LOSCUITO
Converse College Chaplain

WELCOME KIMBERLY VARNADOE KENT '97
Chair, Board of Trustees

GREETINGS

FROM HIGHER EDUCATION DR. PHILIP L. DUBOIS
Chancellor, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

FROM THE LEGAL COMMUNITY..... THE HONORABLE JEAN TOAL
Chief Justice (Ret.), The Supreme Court of the State of South Carolina

**Please stand as you are able.*

FROM SOUTH CAROLINA..... THE HONORABLE HAROLD
WATSON "TREY" GOWDY III
U.S. Representative, Fourth District of South Carolina

FROM SPARTANBURG THE HONORABLE LAURA STILLE
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Spartanburg

*HYMN "JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE"
Music by L. van Beethoven

DR. BRENNAN SZAFRON, ORGAN

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!</p> | <p>3. Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,
All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.</p> |
| <p>2. All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.</p> | <p>4. Mortals, join the happy chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us,
Brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us Sunward
In the triumph song of life.</p> |

*Please stand as you are able.

GREETINGS

FROM FACULTY DR. KYLE A. KEEFER
President, Converse College Faculty Senate

FROM STAFF..... LESLIE WEST
Chair, Converse College Staff Council

FROM ALUMNAE..... CAROLINE WATTS MORRIS '64
President, Converse College Alumnae Association

FROM STUDENTS ARIEL WINGARD '17
President, Converse College Student Government Association 2016-17

CELEBRATORY MUSIC

"LIKE THE MUSIC OF THE SUN" DR. SCOTT ROBBINS
Professor of Composition and Musicology

DR. CHRISTOPHER VANEMAN, FLUTE;
DR. KELLY MCELRATH VANEMAN, OBOE D'AMORE;
DR. SARAH JOHNSON, VIOLIN; AND DR. DOUGLAS WEEKS, PIANO

INVESTITURE OF THE PRESIDENT KIMBERLY VARNADOE KENT '97

PRESENTATION OF THE SYMBOLS OF OFFICE

PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION KIMBERLY VARNADOE KENT '97

THE MACEDR. JEFFREY H. BARKER
Provost

DR. MELISSA WALKER
Grand Marshal

INAUGURAL ADDRESS KRISTA L. NEWKIRK
President

SPECIAL PRESENTATION TO THE PRESIDENT..... OLIVIA HAAS '18

President, Converse College Student Government Association 2017-18

***ALMA MATER ARR. ALICE SKAAR '94**

*Standing with open arms
Standing alone
Watching her children down through the years,
Watching and keeping them safe from harm,
Hearing their laughter and seeing their tears.
Converse! Converse!
We pledge our love to thee.
We'll hail the purple and the gold
With love and loyalty.
Alma Mater, dear to everyone,
We love you now, we'll love you when,
Our college days are done.*

***BENEDICTION..... CASSIDY RINDGE '19**

Student Chaplain

***RECESSIONAL**

**"MASQUES ET BERGAMASQUES" SUITE, OP. 112.....GABRIEL FAURÉ
(1845-1924)**

**CONVERSE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Dr. Seigwart Reichwald, Conductor**

TOCCATA.....JOHN WEAVER (B. 1937)

DR. BRENNAN SZAFRON, ORGAN

**Please stand as you are able.*

❧ ORDER OF THE PROCESSION ❧

GRAND MARSHAL
HEAD JUNIOR MARSHALS
DELEGATES FROM COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
THE CLASS OF 2017
FACULTY MARSHALS
THE FACULTY
THE ADMINISTRATION
PAST PRESIDENTS OF CONVERSE COLLEGE
THE PLATFORM PARTY
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THE PRESIDENT

❧ COMMISSIONED COMPOSITION HONORING PRESIDENT NEWKIRK ❧

Today's ceremony includes the premiere of "Like the Music of the Sun" by Converse professor Dr. Scott Robbins, which was commissioned for President Newkirk's inauguration. Written to feature the Petrie School of Music's full-time instrumental faculty, the piece was inspired by President Newkirk's vision of a beautiful echoing refrain, and a feeling of water and movement. "Like the Music of the Sun captures many moods—expansive, lyrical, grandiose, energetic, and mysterious," said Robbins. "It's a work incorporating light and shadow, shimmers and shudders, and it's an apt analogy for the way we go forward in our lives."

Scott Robbins has been a member of the Petrie School of Music since 1998. His compositions are widely performed and have been recorded by the Grammy award-winning Warsaw Philharmonic, premiered in Carnegie Hall by Converse alumnus Wael Farouk, and received more than 50 awards nationally and internationally.

☪ SYMBOLS OF OFFICE ☪

THE PRESIDENT'S MEDALLION

Adorning the academic regalia of the Converse president is a medallion and chain designed and handmade by Mary Helen Garrison Dalton '46 in 2004. Krista Newkirk becomes the third president to wear the medallion, which incorporates cabochon amethyst and cabochon citrine with gold and silver links that bear the engraved name of each Converse president. Each presidential link within the chain symbolizes the strength of leadership that has sustained Converse throughout her history and will continue to propel her forward.

THE CONVERSE MACE

Introduced in honor of President Newkirk's inauguration, the Converse Mace represents the governing authority of the College and the link between the president and the faculty. It is borne by the Grand Marshal, who leads the academic procession. Designed by Greg Mueller, Assistant Professor of Sculpture, the mace is crafted of bronze and purple heart wood, with 12 spiral elements bearing the names of the academic departments. While not in procession, the mace rests on a stand adorned with the Converse seal and the Founder's Ideal to "See Clearly, Decide Wisely, Act Justly." The stand and spiral elements are made of reclaimed architectural millwork from Wilson Hall's original construction.

Each year, a faculty member is chosen to serve as Grand Marshal by the President from nominees solicited from all faculty. This high honor is based on outstanding teaching, professional accomplishments, service to the College, and seniority.

☪ ACADEMIC REGALIA ☪

Traditional academic regalia is highly symbolic. Each piece of the formal ensemble indicates the wearer's academic achievements and rank. The style and cut of the gown indicate the wearer's highest degree. Bachelors' robes are cut with long, pointed sleeves, while masters' robes feature oblong slit sleeves that fall below the knee. Doctors' full-cut robes are distinguished by velvet front facings and full bell sleeves with velvet chevrons. Hoods are lined with the official color or colors of the college or university which granted the degree. The bordering color, as well as other gown trimmings and cap tassels, indicates the subject in which the degree was earned. For example, pink denotes music, gold denotes science, light blue denotes education, and purple denotes law.

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

REPRESENTED

COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY	1693
YALE UNIVERSITY	1701
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA	1740
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY	1746
WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY	1749
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY	1754
DARTMOUTH COLLEGE	1769
COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON	1770
WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON COLLEGE	1781
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA	1785
FRANKLIN & MARSHALL COLLEGE	1787
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH	1787
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL	1789
WILLIAMS COLLEGE	1793
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA	1801
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA	1819
FURMAN UNIVERSITY	1826
WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY	1834
DAVIDSON COLLEGE	1837
DUKE UNIVERSITY	1838
HOLLINS UNIVERSITY	1842
THE CITADEL, THE MILITARY COLLEGE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	1842
LIMESTONE COLLEGE	1845
BREVARD COLLEGE	1853
COLUMBIA COLLEGE	1854
WOFFORD COLLEGE	1854
QUEENS UNIVERSITY OF CHARLOTTE	1857

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - LINCOLN	1869
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY	1873
BRENAU UNIVERSITY	1878
PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE	1880
WINTHROP UNIVERSITY	1886
NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY	1887
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY	1889
WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY	1889
AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE	1889
LENOIR-RHYNE UNIVERSITY	1891
NORTH GREENVILLE UNIVERSITY	1892
APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY	1899
SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE	1901
SOUTHERN WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY	1906
ANDERSON UNIVERSITY	1911
SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE	1911
GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY	1913
HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY	1924
BOB JONES UNIVERSITY	1927
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE	1946
SOUTHERN METHODIST COLLEGE	1956
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA AIKEN	1961
SPARTANBURG COMMUNITY COLLEGE	1963
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA UPSTATE	1967
FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY	1970
SHERMAN COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTIC	1973
EDWARD VIA COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE	2010

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Chair-Elect, Board of Visitors

LESLIE WEST

Chair, Staff Council

OLIVIA HAAS '18

*President, Student Government
Association*

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LUCY SIMPSON KUHNE '66

KURT ZIMMERLI

ABOUT CONVERSE COLLEGE

Converse College was founded in 1889 by citizens of Spartanburg, South Carolina who aimed to create an educational experience that enables women “to see clearly, decide wisely, and act justly.” Today, Converse is a visionary liberal arts college pushing beyond traditional boundaries to make a quality education available to every student who seeks it – both at the undergraduate level for women and at the post-graduate level for men and women. The College’s mission is to help students develop their unique voice, a sense of value, and a vision for the future.

Converse’s 12:1 student-to-faculty ratio is among the lowest in the nation, and every student has the opportunity to participate in research, independent creative projects, service learning, internships or study-travel. Leadership programs and a 12-sport NCAA Division II athletic program compliment academics to help students become confident leaders in any arena they pursue.

Converse is organized into the School of Humanities, Sciences and Education and the School of the Arts, which includes the renowned Petrie School of Music. The curriculum supports 37 undergraduate majors and 18 graduate degrees. Undergraduate students have options for individualized, self-designed majors, and more than half have double majors. Converse has received increasing recognition for strength in undergraduate research and the sciences, and last year was awarded more than \$600,000 from the National Institutes of Health for biomedical research and K-12 outreach.

As a leading provider of graduate teacher education in the state, Converse offers South Carolina’s only Master’s in Gifted Education program. Graduate programs also include music, marriage and family therapy, the liberal arts, and the state’s only low-residency MFA in Creative Writing.

Since 2010, Converse has celebrated four Fulbright Assistantships, two Goldwater Scholarship finalists, a John Jay Institute Fellow, Presidential Management Fellows, and three South Carolina Professors of the Year. Converse has also been consistently recognized by *Washington Monthly* as a top college in the nation for research, service, and social mobility.

Converse has experienced 30% growth in its traditional undergraduate student population over the last decade, and last fall celebrated its largest undergraduate enrollment in more than 25 years.

❧ PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE ❧

JESSICA BACKMAN, *Class of 2016*

DR. JEFF BARKER, *Provost*

JOY COUCH, *Director of Athletics*

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KEN HOWARD, *Trustee*

DENNIS HUGHES,
Director of Human Resources

KIM VARNADOE KENT '97, *Trustee*

MIKE RUSS, *Trustee*

JANE BOATWRIGHT SCHWAB '77,
Trustee

DR. MELISSA WALKER,
George Dean Johnson Professor of History

BEN WALL,
Chair, Board of Trustees

DR. DOUGLAS WEEKS,
Babcock Professor of Piano

❧ SPECIAL THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION ❧

COX PHOTOGRAPHY

FOLLETT

FLOURISH EVENTS

SODEXO

❧ KEY TO GUEST RIBBONS ❧

GOLD

PAST CONVERSE PRESIDENTS

PURPLE

STUDENT AMBASSADORS AND EVENT STAFF

GREEN

DELEGATES, CEREMONY PARTICIPANTS,
AND NEWKIRK FAMILY

❧ SHARE AND FOLLOW THE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA ❧

#PRESNEWKIRK

THE FOUNDER'S IDEAL

“It is my conviction that the well-being of any country depends much upon the culture of her women, and I have done what I could to found a college that would provide for women thorough and liberal education, so that for them the highest motives may become clear purposes and fixed habits of life; and I desire that the instruction and influence of Converse College be always such that the students may be enabled to see clearly, decide wisely, and to act justly; and that they may learn to love God and humanity, and be faithful to truth and duty, so that their influence may be characterized by purity and power.

“It is also my desire and hope that Converse College be always truly religious, but never denominational. I believe that religion is essential to all that is purest and best in life, here and hereafter. I wish the College to be really, but liberally and tolerantly, Christian; for I believe that the revelation of God in Christ is for salvation; and I commend and commit the College to the love and guidance of God, and to the care, sympathy, and fidelity of my fellowmen.”

—*Dexter Edgar Converse*

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