



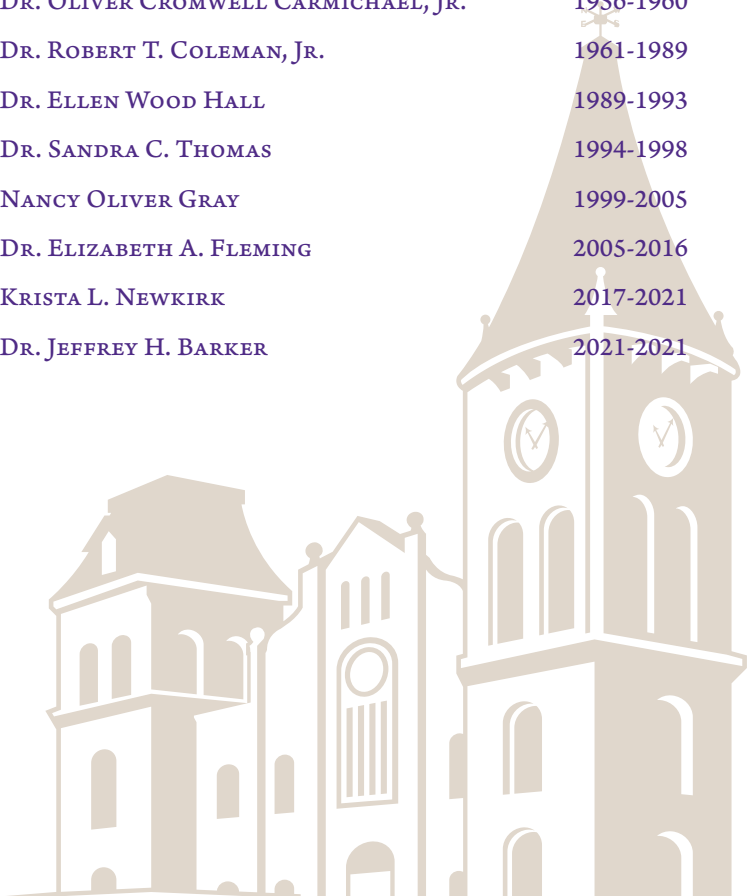
INAUGURATION
of
BOONE J. HOPKINS, PH.D.
TWELFTH PRESIDENT



FRIDAY, THE TWENTY-FIRST OF APRIL
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-THREE

❧ PAST PRESIDENTS OF CONVERSE ❧

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
KRISTA L. NEWKIRK	2017-2021
DR. JEFFREY H. BARKER	2021-2021



BOONE J. HOPKINS, PH.D.



Boone J. Hopkins, Ph.D. was announced as the twelfth president of Converse on February 25, 2022 by the Converse University Board of Trustees. Dr. Hopkins has been a dedicated member of the Converse community since 2012.

Originally from Gainesville, Georgia, Dr. Hopkins is a proud Red Elephant from Gainesville High School. He experienced an innovative undergraduate liberal-arts education through a unique partnership between Brenau University, a historic women's college, and Gainesville State

College, a two-year state institution now known as the University of North Georgia. After completing a bachelor's degree, Dr. Hopkins received his MFA in Directing and Acting Pedagogy from Virginia Commonwealth University followed by a Ph.D. in Theatre Studies from the University of Kansas. Dr. Hopkins moved to Spartanburg in 2012 to join Converse as an Assistant Professor of Theatre. In addition to directing plays and musicals at Converse including *Legally Blonde: the Musical*, *Twelfth Night*, *Cabaret*, *The Wolves*, and *Godspell*, Dr. Hopkins has served in numerous leadership capacities including: Chair of the Department of Theatre & Dance, Dean of the School of the Arts, Senior Associate Provost for Student Success, Interim Provost, and Interim President.

Dr. Hopkins delights in helping those with whom he collaborates reach new heights and achieve excellence. In parallel with his leadership work for Converse, Dr. Hopkins brings his love of empowering others and impacting his community for good through his work in Spartanburg on the Board of the Chapman Cultural Center, as a member of the Ten at the Top Board to support economic development in the Upstate, and as a member of the Integrated Planning Advisory Group for the Spartanburg Academic Movement. Dr. Hopkins is a member of Trinity United Methodist Church and serves as an assistant basketball coach for the Advent Episcopal first and second grade teams.

President Hopkins is married to Dr. Chandra Owenby Hopkins, Dean of the Converse College for Women, and they have two children: Owen (9) and Jack (7).

THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY

*PROCESSIONAL

"PHOENIX"DAN LOCKLAIR (B. 1949)

CONVERSE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
ERIC SCHEIDER, *Interim Director*
DR. BRENNAN SZAFRON, *University Organist*

*POSTING OF THE COLORS AND NATIONAL ANTHEM

SOUTHERN GUARDS BATTALION ARMY ROTC COLOR GUARD

EMMA BROOKE ALLEY '25, *voice*

*INVOCATION THE REVEREND ELIZA SMITH DEBEVOISE
Converse University Chaplain

WELCOME

SANDRA SHEAROUSE MORELLI '78
Chair, Board of Trustees

GREETINGS

DR. ELIZABETH A. FLEMING
Past President, Converse College

THE HONORABLE MAX T. HYDE, JR.
Representative, Thirty-Second District of South Carolina

THE HONORABLE JEROME RICE
Mayor, City of Spartanburg

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

***HYMN** “LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING”
Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

DR. SZAFRON, organ

*Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.*

*Breathe, O breathe, Thy loving spirit
Into every troubled breast
Let us all in Thee inherit
Let us find that second rest
Take away the love of sinning
Alpha and Omega be
End of faith, as its beginning
Sets our hearts at liberty
Come almighty to deliver*

*Let us all Thy life receive
Suddenly return and never
Never more Thy temples leave
Thee we would be always blessing
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing
Glory in Thy perfect love*

*Finish, then, thy new creation;
true and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.*

GREETINGS

DR. MARSHA ROBERTS HOPKINS
President Hopkins' Mother

MARGARET S. MOORE
President, Converse University Faculty Senate

LEXI STONEBURNER, MIM '21
Interim President, Converse University Staff Council

SAMANTHA NICHOLSON LARKINS '12
Past President, Converse University Alumni Association 2020-2022

ANGELA BROBSON '23
President, Converse University Student Government Association 2022-2023

CELEBRATORY COMMISSIONS HONORING PRESIDENT HOPKINS

“FLOWERING TRUMPETS”..... DR. DAVID BERRY
Professor of Music

DR. STEVEN GRAFF
Assistant Professor of Piano

“THE GARDENER” PROFESSOR RICK MULKEY
*Director of the Creative Writing Program, Director of MFA in
Creative Writing and Associate Professor of English*

JENNA ELSER, *Instructor of Theatre, reader*

“LIFE TOWARD LIGHT”.....DR. SCOTT ROBBINS
Professor of Music

DR. GRAFF, *piano*

INVESTITURE OF THE PRESIDENT..... MS. MORELLI

PRESENTATION OF THE SYMBOLS OF OFFICE

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION MS. MORELLI
THE MACE DR. JOE WILFERTH
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

DR. PATRICIA S. FOY
Professor of Music Education, 2023 Grand Marshal

INAUGURAL ADDRESS DR. BOONE J. HOPKINS
President

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
TO THE PRESIDENT JASMYN WILLIAMS '24
*President, Converse University
Student Government Association 2023-2024*

*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 ANNA PATTERSON '24
President, Religious Life Council

*RECESSIONAL

"JUPITER" FROM THE PLANETS GUSTAV HOLST (1867-1937)

CONVERSE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
PROFESSOR SCHEIDER, *conductor*

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

❧ ORDER OF THE PROCESSION ❧

GRAND MARSHAL
HEAD JUNIOR MARSHALS
DELEGATES FROM COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
THE CLASS OF 2023
FACULTY MARSHALS
THE FACULTY
THE ADMINISTRATION
PAST PRESIDENTS OF CONVERSE
THE PLATFORM PARTY
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THE PRESIDENT

❧ COMMISSIONED COMPOSITION HONORING PRESIDENT HOPKINS ❧

Poet Rick Mulkey directs the Bachelor of Fine Arts program in Creative and Professional Writing at Converse University as well as the University's Master of Fine Arts program in Creative Writing. Professor Mulkey wrote *The Gardener* in January 2023, in celebration of Boone Hopkins' inauguration as Converse's 12th President. In February 2023, Professors of Music Dr. David Berry and Dr. Scott Robbins both used *The Gardener* as inspiration for their short piano pieces, titled *Flowering Trumpets* and *Life Toward Light* respectively. Today the poem will be read by Jenna Elser, Instructor of Theatre, and the two pieces will be performed by Dr. Steven Graff, Assistant Professor of Piano.

❧ SYMBOLS OF OFFICE ❧

THE CONVERSE MACE

The Converse Mace represents the governing authority of the University 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, former 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 Converse, and seniority.

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. Boone Hopkins is the fourth 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.

❧ 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

HARVARD UNIVERSITY	1636
YALE UNIVERSITY	1701
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY	1746
DARTMOUTH COLLEGE	1769
HAMPDEN-SYDNEY COLLEGE	1775
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY	1789
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL	1789
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA	1801
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA	1819
INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON	1820
COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY	1828
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA	1831
EMORY UNIVERSITY	1836
DAVIDSON COLLEGE	1837
DUKE UNIVERSITY	1838
SAMFORD UNIVERSITY	1841
MARY BALDWIN UNIVERSITY	1842
LIMESTONE UNIVERSITY	1845
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA	1853
COLUMBIA COLLEGE	1854
WOFFORD COLLEGE	1854
QUEENS UNIVERSITY OF CHARLOTTE	1857
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA - SCHOOL OF LAW	1859
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS	1863

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY	1870
WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA	1871
VIRGINIA TECH	1872
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY	1873
BRENAU UNIVERSITY	1878
PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE	1880
WINTHROP UNIVERSITY	1886
NORTH CAROLINA STATE	1887
AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE	1889
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY	1889
NORTH GREENVILLE UNIVERSITY	1892
WINGATE UNIVERSITY	1896
EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY	1907
SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE	1911
GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY	1913
MOUNT MARY UNIVERSITY	1913
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI	1925
BOB JONES UNIVERSITY	1927
JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY	1934
BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY	1948
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA UPSTATE	1967
FLAGLER COLLEGE	1968
SHERMAN COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTIC	1973
CAPELLA UNIVERSITY	1993

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022-2023

BOARD OFFICERS

SANDRA SHEAROUSE MORELLI '78
Chair

WALLACE DAVISON PRESTWOOD '89
Vice Chair

SANDRA "SANDY" HARTNETT '75
Secretary

TRUSTEES

B. BRANT BYNUM

CHRISTOPHER L. CANNON

RANDALL K. CHAMBERS

RHONDA T. COKER '84

PAUL J. COTÉ

CHRISTOPHER DORRANCE

STINSON WOODWARD FERGUSON '07

KATHERINE COLBURN FULMER '96

SANDRA "SANDY" HARTNETT '75

PADRICA HOPKINS '85

STEPHEN JOHNSON

KARLA JONES '85

LILLIAN MONTGOMERY LILLY

FAIN McDANIEL '92

AMY TIBBALS MORALES '86

SANDRA SHEAROUSE MORELLI '78

WALLACE DAVISON PRESTWOOD '89

LINDA LAYMAN REDDING '88

TINA ROHNER '07

EMILY RUSHING '73

DAVID N. SMART

ALLEN COLEMAN SMITH

LOUIS SMITH

ELIZABETH FINLAY VINGI '87

EX-OFFICIO TRUSTEES

OLIVIA "LIBBY" TILSON '79
President, Alumni Association

PALMER BALL '84
Chair, Board of Visitors

ADVISORS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOONE J. HOPKINS
President

ANGELA BROBSON '23
President, Student Government Association

MARGARET S. MOORE
President, Faculty Senate

LEXI STONEBURNER, MIM '21
Interim President, Staff Council

LIFE TRUSTEES

WILLIAM BARNET, III

JULIA JONES DANIELS '53

KENNETH B. HOWARD

SUSAN PHIFER JOHNSON '65

LUCY SIMPSON KUHNE '66

WALTER S. MONTGOMERY, JR.

KURT ZIMMERLI

ABOUT CONVERSE UNIVERSITY

Converse was founded in 1889 by citizens of Spartanburg, SC, who aimed to create an educational experience for women, and in fall 2020 it welcomed its first undergraduate co-educational incoming class.

The University encompasses the School of Humanities, Sciences, and Business; the School of the Arts; the School of Education and Graduate Studies; and the Converse College for Women. The curriculum supports over 40 undergraduate majors and more than 36 graduate degrees, including Converse's doctoral program.

Converse has 18 NCAA Division II teams including acrobatics & tumbling (emerging), field hockey, women's golf, women's lacrosse, softball, and women's volleyball, as well as men's and women's programs for basketball, cross country, soccer, swimming, tennis, track & field. In addition, we offer coed programs in esports, spirit squad, and IHSA equestrian. We are the only NCAA Division II athletic program in the Upstate, actively competing in Conference Carolinas.

Converse students experience deep scholarship, transformative mentorship, experiential learning, and wonderful support for and belief in each other. Through this unique formula, Converse is a creator of opportunity for its students through a personalized education that also includes the professional and technical skills graduates need to be successful in their careers.

OUR MISSION

Converse empowers students to become transformative leaders who see clearly, decide wisely, and act justly.

OUR VISION

Converse advances a culture of belonging and collaboration that ignites creativity, innovation, and transformation.

❧ PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE ❧

RANDALL CHAMBERS
Trustee

PHYLLIS PERRIN HARRIS '82
Trustee

KEN HOWARD
Life Trustee

KARLA JONES '85
Trustee

WALLACE DAVISON PRESTWOOD '89
Trustee

LINDA LAYMAN REDDING '88
Trustee

MIKE KENNEDY
*Former Assistant Vice President
for Philanthropy*

RANDY LOGGINS
Deputy Director of Athletics

KAREN MIMS '22
*Admissions Coordinator and Assistant
to the Converse College for Women*

MARGARET MOORE
*Faculty Senate President and Associate
Professor of Physical Education*

MADELYN YOUNG
*Anne Morrison Chapman
Distinguished Professor of International
Study, Associate Professor of Economics*

SANDRA SHEAROUSE MORELLI '78
Chair, Board of Trustees

PAMELA GREENWAY
*Senior Executive Assistant to the
President and Assistant Secretary
to the Board of Trustees*

❧ 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*

❧ FOUNDERS AND ORIGINAL TRUSTEES OF CONVERSE ❧

WILBUR E. BURNETT

CHARLES H. CARLISLE

JOHN B. CLEVELAND

GEORGE COFIELD

DEXTER EDGAR CONVERSE

GEORGE R. DEAN

REVEREND W.T. DERIEUX

MAJOR DAVID R. DUNCAN

BISHOP WILLIAM W. DUNCAN

DR. CHARLES E. FLEMING

DR. HENRY E. HEINITSH

WILLIAM S. MANNING

CAPTAIN JOHN H. MONTGOMERY

HENRY E. RAVENEL

REVEREND A. COKE SMITH

COLONEL JOSEPH WALKER

NEWTON F. WALKER

REVEREND BENJAMIN F. WILSON