



BACCALAUREATE

A Service of Celebration

ONE HUNDRED THIRTIETH COMMENCEMENT

Friday, May 19, 2023

5:00 pm

Twichell Auditorium

Zimmerli Performance Center

••• 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 fellow men.”

—*Dexter Edgar Converse*



••• Converse Core Values •••

EXCELLENCE drives us to achieve the best in all that we pursue; to develop competence, confidence and courage to realize full potential in mind, body and spirit.

INTEGRITY calls us to cultivate and exercise honor, character and vision in daily decisions and actions; to act honestly and justly when confronted with ethical dilemmas and life's challenges.

EXPLORATION compels us to think critically and creatively in the acquisition of knowledge and skills; to discover and enrich scholarship and research, disciplines, methods and vocations through hands-on learning and leadership and through discovery, discourse and debate.

DIVERSITY inspires us to embrace the different perspectives, experiences, cultures, backgrounds, talents and contributions that comprise a global society; to enhance and expand inclusivity as we build a stronger multi-dimensional community.

RESPECT leads us to value self and others, recognizing the legitimacy of individuality in belief, expression and perspective; to exercise civility, mindfulness and responsibility in words and actions.

COMMUNITY motivates us to develop a dynamic network of relationships through a balance of work and play that nurtures the abilities of each member in order to establish a better whole; to mentor, collaborate and communicate as engaged citizens who effect positive change.

PROGRESS challenges us to think strategically toward the future by employing creativity, adaptability, ingenuity and innovation; to advance and transform the world around us.

••• The Baccalaureate Program •••

Prelude: *Prelude and Fugue* Johann Sebastian Bach
in C major, BWV 531 (1685-1750)
Dr. Brennan Szafron, organ

Processional: *Processional*..... *William Mathias* (1934-1992)
Dr. Szafron, organ

THE GATHERING

Opening Prayers

A Blessing for Joy **Anna Patterson**
poem by Rev. Jan Richardson *Class of 2024*

Excerpt from “We All Breathe” **Anna Caroline McGuinn**
book of Poems and Prayers by Gretta Vosper *Class of 2023*

Prayer of St. Francis **David Windmiller**
Class of 2023

Welcome and Opening Remarks **Reverend Eliza Smith, MDiv, MAPT**
University Chaplain

*Hymn: *How Can I Keep From Singing?* Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

Led By
Winnie Mburu
Master of Music in Music Education, Class of 2023
Dr. Szafron, organ

¹ My life goes on in endless song
Above earth’s lamentations,
I hear the real, though far-off hymn
That hails a new creation.

Refrain:

No storm can shake my inmost calm,
While to that rock I’m clinging.
Since love is lord of heaven and earth
How can I keep from singing?

² Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear its music ringing,
It sounds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

³While though the tempest loudly roars,
I hear the truth, it liveth.
And though the darkness 'round me close,
Songs in the night it giveth. [Refrain]

*Litany of Remembrance.....**Dr. Allison Vick**
Assistant Professor of Political Science

As we gather today for Baccalaureate and tomorrow to celebrate Commencement, we acknowledge there are many within our community grieving the loss of loved ones. As we continue to celebrate this weekend, let us remember and call to mind these beloved family and friends who cannot be with us physically at this time.

“In the Rising of the Sun”Sylvan Kamens and
Rabbi Jack Riemer

**Leader: In the rising of the sun and in its going down,
we remember them.**

Response: In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,
we remember them.

**Leader: In the opening buds and in the rebirth of spring,
we remember them.**

Response: In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,
we remember them.

**Leader: In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,
we remember them.**

Response: In the beginning of the year and when it ends,
we remember them.

**Leader: When we are weary and in need of strength,
we remember them.**

Response: When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.

**Leader: When we have joys we yearn to share,
we remember them.**

Response: So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a
part of us, as we remember them.

Concert Piece no. 2, for two clarinets and piano Felix Mendelssohn
II. Andante (1809-1847)

Cassandra Shaddock, clarinet
Bachelor of Music in Music Education, Class of 2023

Luxin Liu, clarinet
Master of Music in Music Performance, Class of 2023

Christopher Riley, piano
Master of Music in Music Performance, Class of 2023

THE READINGS

Excerpt from “*Where to Begin*” **Danielle Stone**
by Cleo Wade *Chief Inclusion Excellence Officer*
and Title IX Coordinator

Excerpt from Martin Luther King Jr’s **Daphnie Glenn**
Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech (1964) *Director of First Generation*
Programs and Student Success Initiatives

Micah 4:3-4, Ephesians 4:1-4 (NRSV) **Sam Davidson**
Head Women’s Basketball Coach

power **Anna Patterson ’24**
poem by Rupi Kaur

THE PROCLAMATION

Homily: *Whoever You Are, Be a Good One* **Rev. Eliza Smith DeBevoise**

GOING FORTH

Litany for Students **Anna Caroline McGuinn ’23**

All graduates are asked to stand and participate.

Leader: As we prepare to close this chapter and enter the next, we take a moment to honor those who have helped make this time in our lives special:

Graduates: Roommates, and friends; teachers and mentors; coaches and administrators and staff; and families near and far.

Leader: We remember and celebrate the blessings we have known here:

Graduates: Friendships made, celebrations enjoyed, promises kept; intellectual and academic accomplishments; caring and nurture given and received; play and work, study and rest.

Leader: We remember the journey in all of its fullness. We lift up and honor the challenges we have faced:

Graduates: Moments of grief and times when we have felt discouraged. Moments of overwhelm and hard days.

Leader: We lift up and honor the moments of joy:

Graduates: Times when we accomplished what we didn't believe we could. Times of connection, times when we did not feel alone.

Leader: We hold fast to all that has been transformative in our college chapter.

Graduates: May we take what we have learned here and use it for good.

* Blessing of the Graduates..... **Rev. Eliza Smith DeBevoise**

Leader: As you all prepare to graduate tomorrow, may you remember that it is as much a commencing, a beginning, as it is an ending.

Family & Friends: May you carry with you our love and support for all that lies ahead.

Faculty & Staff: May you carry with you our belief in your accomplishments and potential as you head into professional work, further study, community service, or time off.

Family & Friends: May you carry with you our belief in your goodness and hope as you begin building new lives while holding on to the old in this time of transition.

Faculty & Staff: May you carry with you our belief in your abilities and character as future leaders in our communities and our greater world.

Leader And may you carry with you a strong belief in yourselves, as you continue to grow and learn, to give and receive. May you go in peace and with joy. We are so very proud of you.

* Recessional:

Carillon from *24 Pieces in Free Style* Louis Vierne (1870-1937)
Dr. Szafron, *organ*

* *Those who are able are asked to stand.*

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You are cordially invited to join the Class of 2023 in Johnson Plaza for the traditional "Hats Off Party" immediately following this service.

*Please note the location of all exits in case of an emergency.
In the unlikely event of power failure, a generator will begin within ten seconds to provide lighting.*



The 2023 Undergraduate and Graduate Commencement ceremonies will be held Saturday, May 20, at 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., respectively, in the Twitchell Auditorium of the Zimmerli Performance Center.