MAY COMMENCEMENT

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024
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

CORE VALUES

The Converse University commitment to creativity and the development of adaptable individuals with clear vision, wise decision and just action is guided by seven core values. These enduring beliefs serve as the compass for the University. They transcend time, extend across the institution and guide our actions and decisions.

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 multidimensional 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.
**Commencement Exercises**

**Undergraduate Ceremony**

Saturday, May 18, 2024 • 9:30 AM

Processional: “Pomp and Circumstance,” March No. 1 .......................................................... Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

arr. Edwin H. Lemare

Brennan Szafron, DM

*University Organist*

*Invocation* ........................................................................................................................................

Anna Patterson ’24

President, Religious Life Council

Candidate for Bachelor of Arts

*Pledge of Allegiance*

Welcome ........................................................................................................................................

Boone J. Hopkins, PhD

President

Welcome from the Board of Trustees .............................................................................................

Wallace Davison Prestwood ’89

Chair, Board of Trustees

Introduction of Speaker ..................................................................................................................

Joe Wilferth, PhD

Provost, Vice President of Academic Affairs

Conferring of Honorary Degree .....................................................................................................

President Hopkins

Commencement Address .............................................................................................................

Russell W. Booker, PhD, CDE

Chief Executive Officer, Spartanburg Academic Movement

Class of 2024 Remarks ..................................................................................................................

Jasmyn Williams ’24

President, Student Government Association

Candidate for Bachelor of Arts

Special Distinctions

Pi Kappa Lambda Award .............................................................................................................

Christopher Vaneman, DMA

Dean, School of the Arts

Elford C. Morgan Award ............................................................................................................... Erin Templeton, PhD

Dean, School of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Mary Mildred Sullivan Award - Community Recipient ............................................................... President Hopkins
Air on the G String, *from Orchestral Suite no. 3* ......................... Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Performed by:

**Ivana Carlson ’24, violin**
*Candidate for Bachelor of Music Performance, Strings*

**Rita Dunn ’24, harp**
*Candidate for Bachelor of Music Performance, Strings*

Presentation of the Degree Candidates .......................................................... **Provost Wilferth**

Conferring of Degrees .................................................................................... **President Hopkins**

Welcome to the Alumni Association ............................................................... **Libby Cuttino Tilson ’79**
*President, Alumni Association Board*

Farewell to the Graduates ............................................................................. **Provost Wilferth**

*Benediction................................................................. **Rev. Eliza Smith DeBevoise, MDiv, MAPT**
*University Chaplain*

*The Alma Mater .............................................................................. arr. by Alice Skaar

**Dr. Szafron, organ**

*++Recessional: Ride of the Valkyries................................................. Richard Wagner (1813-1883)
arr. Edwin H. Lemare

**Dr. Szafron, organ**

Commencement is a joyous and memorable event for students and their families. We request that the audience respect this special moment for each graduate by refraining from applause until all graduates have received their degrees.

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*
++ Please remain in the auditorium until the graduates have recessed.
*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.*

Guests are invited to join the Converse community for refreshments on Johnson Plaza, located in front of Wilson Hall, immediately following Commencement.
Dr. Russell W. Booker  
*Chief Executive Officer, Spartanburg Academic Movement*

Dr. Russell W. Booker, CEO of Spartanburg Academic Movement in Spartanburg, South Carolina, is a dedicated advocate for education and community service, boasting over 30 years of diverse experience in the field. His unwavering commitment revolves around empowering students to lead lives of distinction and service.

As the leader of the Spartanburg Academic Movement, Dr. Booker is supporting an ambitious integrated economic mobility plan, Movement 2030, with the goal of providing thousands of children in Spartanburg a clear path to upward mobility. Retired as the Superintendent of Spartanburg County School District Seven, Dr. Booker has significantly influenced the local education landscape.

Beyond his role in Spartanburg, he currently serves as the Chair of the StriveTogether Board of Directors and sits on the board of directors for Purpose Built Communities. Additionally, he holds trustee positions at Wingate University, the Mary Black Foundation, Strategic Spartanburg, and the Spartanburg Regional Hospital Foundation.

Dr. Booker’s contributions have garnered him numerous accolades, including the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Humanitarian Award, recognition as South Carolina Superintendent of the Year, and induction into the South Atlantic Conference Hall of Fame as a Distinguished Athlete Alumni. In 2020, he received the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina’s highest civilian honor, in recognition of his dedicated service to education.

Most recently, he was honored with OneSpartanburg Inc.’s 2023 Neville Holcombe Distinguished Citizen Award. A proud member of the Spartanburg Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity Inc., and the South Carolina Liberty Fellowship, Dr. Booker’s roots run deep in his community.

He earned his B.S. degree in Education from Wingate University and holds a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of South Carolina, Columbia. Presently, he serves as a By All Means Senior Fellow at Harvard University’s EdRedesign Lab in the Graduate School of Education.

Dr. Booker and his wife Sheryl reside in Spartanburg, and count their sons to be among their greatest blessings. Grant, a graduate of the US Naval Academy, was commissioned as a US Marine Corps officer in 2023, while Maxwell is a member of the Harvard College Class of ’26. The Booker family is actively involved in the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, where they find solace and inspiration in their faith community.
Platform Party

Boone J. Hopkins, PhD
President

Wallace Davison Prestwood ’89
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Joe Wilferth, PhD
Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Russell W. Booker, PhD
Commencement Speaker

Rev. Eliza Smith DeBevoise, MDiv, MAPT
University Chaplain

Libby Cuttino Tilson ’79
President of the Alumni Association Board

Erin Templeton, PhD
Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Christopher Vaneman, DMA
Dean of the School of the Arts

William S. Case, PhD
Associate Provost for Student Success

Jessica Sorrells, PhD
Dean of the School of Business and Data Science

Grand Marshal
Rafael Hernández, PhD
Reeves Brothers Professor of Hispanic Studies

Faculty Marshals
Madelyn V. Young, PhD
Anne Morrison Chapman Distinguished Professor of International Study,
Associate Professor of Economics

Kevin DeLapp, PhD
Harold E. Fleming Professor of Philosophy

Head Student Marshals
Tessa Kramer ’25
Abeeha Sajid ’25
... COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES ...  
GRADUATE 
SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024 • 2:00 PM

Processional:

*Crown Imperial* .................................................. William Walton (1902-1983)

**Brennan Szafron, DM**  
*University Organist*

*Invocation* ............................................................ Rev. Eliza Smith DeBevoise, MDiv, MAPT  
*University Chaplain*

*Pledge of Allegiance*

Greetings and Introductions .......................................................... Boone J. Hopkins, PhD  
*President*

Welcome from the Board of Trustees .............................................. Wallace Davison Prestwood ’89  
*Chair, Board of Trustees*

Keynote Speech ................................................................. Joe Wilferth, PhD  
*Provost, Vice President of Academic Affairs*

Special Distinctions ........................................................................... Lienne F. Medford, EdD  
*Dean of the Graduate School*

Lovett Promising School Leader Award
Nancy Breard Graduate Faculty Award

“Hello” ..................................................................................... by Lionel Richie  
arr. Catherine Black

**Performed by:**  
**Catherine Black, piano**  
*Candidate for Master of Music*

Presentation of the Degree Candidates ........................................... Provost Wilferth
Conferring of Degrees....................................................................................................................

President Hopkins

Welcome to the Alumni Association..........................................................................................

Libby Cuttino Tilson ’79
President, Alumni Association Board

Farewell to the Graduates...........................................................................................................

Dean Medford

*Benediction ................................................................................................................................

Rev. Smith DeBevoise

*The Alma Mater .............................................................................................................................. arr. by Alice Skaar

Dr. Szafron, organ

*++Recessional:
March in A-flat major.................................................................Theodore Salome (1824-1896)

Dr. Szafron, organ

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PLATFORM PARTY

Boone J. Hopkins, PhD
President

Wallace Davison Prestwood ’89
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Joe Wilferth, PhD
Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Lienne F. Medford, EdD
Dean of the Graduate School

Rev. Eliza Smith DeBevoise, MDiv, MA, PT
University Chaplain

Libby Cuttino Tilson ’79
President of the Alumni Association Board

Kelly Harrison Maguire, PhD
Associate Dean of Education

Lee Givins, PhD
Director of the Professional Leadership Program

Grand Marshal
Rafael Hernández, PhD
Reeves Brothers Professor of Hispanic Studies

Faculty Marshals
Madelyn V. Young, PhD
Anne Morrison Chapman Distinguished Professor of International Study
Associate Professor of Economics

Kevin DeLapp, PhD
Harold E. Fleming Professor of Philosophy
FOUNDERS & ORIGINAL TRUSTEES

Mr. Wilbur E. Burnett  Mr. Charles H. Carlisle  Mr. John B. Cleveland  Mr. George Cofield  Mr. Dexter Edgar Converse  Dr. George R. Dean  The Reverend W.T. Derieux  Major David R. Duncan  Bishop William W. Duncan  Dr. Charles E. Fleming  Dr. Henry E. Heinitsh  Mr. William S. Manning  Capt. John H. Montgomery  Mr. Henry E. Ravenel  Rev. A. Coke Smith  Col. Joseph Walker  Mr. Newton F. Walker  Rev. Benjamin F. Wilson

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TRUSTEES
B. Brant Bynum  Christopher L. Cannon  Rhonda T. Coker '84  Paul J. Coté  Dawn Davis Deck '99  Stinson Woodward Ferguson '07  Katherine Colburn Fulmer '96  Sandra “Sandy” Hartnett ’75  Padrica Hopkins ’85  Stephen Johnson  Karla Jones ’85  Kimberly Varnadoe Kent ’97  Fain Langdale McDaniel ’92  Brelan Riddle Montgomery ’06  Amy Tibbals Morales ’86  Sandra Shearouse Morelli ’78  Wallace Davison Prestwood ’89  Linda Layman Redding ’88  Tina Rohner ’07  Emily Jones Rushing ’73  David N. Smart  Allen Coleman Smith  Louis Smith  Christy Davis Stoner ’87  Dwight Van Inwegen

BOARD OFFICERS
Wallace Davison Prestwood ’89, Chair  Linda Layman Redding ’88, Vice Chair  Sandra “Sandy” Hartnett ’75, Secretary

EX-OFFICIO TRUSTEES
Libby Cuttino Tilson ’79  President, Alumni Association  Palmer Davison Ball ’84, Chair, Board of Visitors

ADVISORS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Boone J. Hopkins, President  Jasmyn Williams ’24, Student Government Association President  Pamela Greenway, Secretary to the Board of Trustees  Margaret Moore, Faculty Senate President  Beverly Lowrance, Staff Council President

LIFE TRUSTEES
Honor Societies

Alpha Lambda Delta
Alpha Lambda Delta is an honor society for students who have achieved a 3.5 GPA or higher and are in the top 20% of their class during their first year of college.

Alpha Psi Omega
Alpha Psi Omega is a National Theatre Honor Society for participants in collegiate theatre.

Alpha Sigma Lambda
Alpha Sigma Lambda is an honor society which celebrates the scholarship and leadership of adult students.

Athletic Medallions
Athletic Medallions recognize student-athletes who were members of a Converse University Valkyries sports team.

Beta Beta Beta
Beta Beta Beta is a collegiate honor society and academic fraternity for students of the biological sciences.

Delta Kappa
Delta Kappa recognizes achievements in scholarship and service.

Delta Omicron
Delta Omicron is a co-ed international professional music honors fraternity to promote and support excellence in music and musicianship.

Gamma Sigma Society
The Gamma Sigma Society is the honorary scholarship society of the traditional arts and sciences.

International Students
Converse recognizes its international students with a stole representing the student’s country of origin.

Kappa Delta Pi
Kappa Delta Pi is an international honor society for education.

Nisbet Honors Program
The Nisbet Honors Program began in 2000 when Converse alumna Marian McGowan Nisbet ’62 and her husband, Olin, established an endowment to support a full Honors Program. The Nisbet Honors program provides a community and scholarly challenge that promotes the full potential of the academically gifted student.

Omicron Delta Kappa
Omicron Delta Kappa is the national leadership honor society that recognizes and encourages superior leadership and exemplary character.

Pi Kappa Lambda
Pi Kappa Lambda is an American honor society for undergraduate students, graduate students, and professors of music.

SGA Medallions
SGA Medallions recognize officers of the Student Government Association.
**Special Distinctions**

**Pi Kappa Lambda Award**
The Pi Kappa Lambda Award recognizes the graduating senior with the highest grade point average in the Petrie School of Music Chapter of this national music honor society.

**Elford C. Morgan Award**
Named for Elford C. Morgan, who served Converse from 1932 to 1959 as a professor of English and dean of administration, the award is given to the senior with the highest GPA for a student majoring in the traditional arts and sciences.

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

**Kathryne Amelia Brown Award**
The Kathryne Amelia Brown Award was established at Converse 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.

**Lovett Promising School Leader Award**
The Lovett Promising School Leader Award was established in 2014 with the financial support of former Dean of the School of Education and Graduate Studies, Dr. Martha T. Lovett, who served Converse from 1986 to 2002. This award is given annually to a graduate student completing a degree in school administration.

**Nancy Breard Award**
Named in honor of Dr. Nancy Breard, who was a faculty member at Converse from 1989 to 2012, this award was established in 2023 to recognize outstanding teaching and service to Graduate Education at Converse University.

**Doctoral Hoods**
The doctoral hood signifies a student’s success in completing the graduate program. Converse University hosts a Hooding Ceremony each year prior to commencement as special recognition for doctoral degree candidates.
Traditions and Symbols

The Converse Mace
The Converse Mace represents the governing authority of Converse and the link between the president and the faculty. The mace precedes the faculty in the procession and is carried by a senior faculty member. Crafted of bronze and purple heart wood, the mace includes 12 spiral elements that bear 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 of the mace are made of reclaimed architectural millwork from Wilson Hall’s original construction.

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. President Boone J. 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 names of each Converse president. Each presidential link within the chain symbolizes the strength of leadership that has sustained Converse throughout history and will continue to propel us forward.

The Converse Way
Inspired by the Founder’s Ideal, The Converse Way is a pathway and tradition grounded in the core values of our beloved institution. The Converse Way is the walk made from Twichell Auditorium to the front academic quad on Opening Convocation, Founders’ Day and Commencement. Weaving through The Johnson Plaza, it is symbolic of the path taken by our Founders to establish this distinctive college experience – calling for those who believe in Converse to contribute, always, to its well-being.

The Converse Legacy Club
The Converse Legacy Club is an esteemed group of graduates with a family Converse legacy. Graduates whose parent, grandparent or great-grandparent, aunt or uncle, or sibling attended Converse are considered a Converse legacy. The Legacy Club plays a part in the University’s rich history and we honor these legacies recognizing this special bond.
Academic Regalia

The pageantry and color of academic costume dates back to medieval university practices. Originally adapted from ecclesiastical vestments and later influenced by the guilds of craftsmen, caps, gowns, and hoods were standard items of men’s clothing in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, practical in the warmth they provided in cold, drafty halls. Today, academic apparel in America is regulated by the United States Intercollegiate Code of Academic Dress, a system first adopted in 1885.

Each piece of the formal ensemble is symbolic of the wearer’s academic achievements and rank. From the beginning, most academic robes were black to symbolize the democracy of scholarship, as they cover any dress or other earmark of social standing. The style and cut of the gown indicate the wearer’s highest degree. Bachelors’ plain gowns are cut with long, pointed sleeves, while masters’ robes feature closed slit sleeves. Doctors’ full-cut gowns are distinguished by double-belled sleeves and velvet bar trimmings. Some universities commission doctoral gowns in a representative color other than black to match their institution’s colors.

Hoods, initially designed to be close-fitting around the face, are now elongated and lined with the official color or colors of the college or university which granted the degree. Converse University’s hood is lined in purple with gold chevrons. The bordering color, as well as other gown trimmings and cap tassels, indicates the subject in which the degree was earned. The black mortar board cap with tassel is standard wear for all ranks, although soft square topped caps are permissible for women. Gold tassels indicate doctoral degree holders.

Faculties represented in today’s processional include:

- **Arts, Letters, Humanities** | White
- **Commerce, Accountancy, Business** | Drab
- **Economics** | Copper
- **Education** | Light Blue
- **Fine Arts, including Architecture** | Brown
- **Journalism** | Crimson
- **Law** | Purple
- **Library Science** | Lemon
- **Music** | Pink
- **Philosophy** | Dark Blue
- **Physical Education** | Sage Green
- **Science** | Yellow
- **Social Science** | Cream
- **Theology** | Scarlet

As traditions surrounding regalia are changing, degree granting institutions now have the option to hood candidates using school colors. Converse doctoral students voted to have purple hoods.
Candidates for Bachelor’s Degrees
Bachelor of Arts

John Ackerly
Business Administration

Courtney Rayne Arp
Musical Theatre

Morgan Mitchell Ayers
Elementary Education

Serrah Roxann Kingston Ballard
Elementary Education

Joan Bauza Sureda
Business Administration

**Jessica Besu
Child and Family Studies

Isabella Boccia Gomes de Moraes
Business Administration

Ophelia June Borders
Studio Art

*Graecyn Boyd
Business Administration

Dorothy M. Brogden
Child and Family Studies

Lily Maud Cairns
Psychology

Reagan Elise Chafin
Art Therapy

Mackenzie Paige Cooley
Child and Family Studies

Virginia Grace Crocker
Special Education: Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Kaylee Shaye Couder
Child and Family Studies

Uzziah Dawkins
Child and Family Studies

†Anna Mackenzie Day
Business Administration

†Sylvia Marie Dejoris
Psychology

Bridget Olivia Dennehy
Biology

Sha’Deashia O’Vasia Durant
Child and Family Studies

Erin Elizabeth Durflinger
English: Concentration in Creative Writing

Isabella Felicia Ylanan Eraula
Art Therapy
Psychology

Yolanda Magnolia Escudero
Business Administration

†Olivia Joy Eshenbaugh
English

Anabel Alexis Evans
Early Childhood Education

Evelyn Julia Fitz
Biology

Iriana Corael Foster
Art Education

Matthew Daniel Fowler
Business Administration
Kelly Michelle Fox  
*Special Education: Deaf and Hard of Hearing*

Danielle Monique Fuller  
*Child and Family Studies*

Lauren Ashley Garaux  
*Child and Family Studies*

Emily Morgan Garner  
*History*

Angelica Gonzalez  
*Biology*

Madison Grace Gregory  
*Business Administration*

Leah Alexis Hall  
*Theatre*

Jasmine N. Hamilton  
*Biology*

Nathaly Intehda Hansana  
*Business Administration*

*Lizzy Erin Harvey*  
*Psychology*

Ryleigh Grace Henderson  
*Biology*

**Makenna Ryan Hill**  
*Business Administration*

Loretta Ann Holloway  
*Studio Art*

Aliscia Jade Hope  
*Musical Theatre*

Joel Christian Houston  
*Studio Art*

Dana Lanford Hudgins  
*Business Administration*

*Leah Hurley*  
*Child and Family Studies*

Caryn Jamia Hudson  
*Child and Family Studies*

Ashley Leeanne Jeffcoat  
*Child and Family Studies*

**Breosha Z. Jeter**  
*Business Administration*

†Terri La'Sha Jones  
*English: Concentration in Creative Writing*

James Bradford Kennedy, Jr.  
*Studio Art*

Jillian Dawn Kennedy  
*Special Education, Deaf and Hard of Hearing*

Sinan Kilincarslan  
*Psychology*

†Carson Elauine Kneisley  
*Business Administration*

Mercedes Cheyenne Laster  
*Psychology*

MacKenzie Lynne Leary  
*Psychology*

Abigail Grace Ledford  
*English*

Cristina I. Leon  
*Accounting*

Lisbon L. Lopes  
*Business Administration*

Angela Paola Lopez  
*Art Therapy*

Laura Jessie Lumetta  
*Theatre*

Xion McKenzie Makupson  
*Child and Family Studies*

Francesca Lynn Malafronte  
*Individualized Major*
Enzo Tavares Marcheschi  
*Business*

Luci Arexalin Martinez-Olivares  
*Hispanic Studies*

Allison G. Mason  
*Art History*

Julia Indra Marije Matthijssen  
*Business Administration*

Leslie Michelle McCoy  
*Early Childhood Education*

Shelby M. McCutchen  
*Special Education: Multicategorical*

Cameron Elizabeth McGahee  
*Psychology*

Tyler John McKinney  
*Biology*

†Anna J. Micklatcher-Peterson  
*Studio Art*

**Sarah Mintern  
*Child and Family Studies*

*Sara Allen Morden  
*Studio Art*

Eva Knox Morin  
*Psychology*

Asa Sena Murphy-Caldwell  
*Psychology*

**Phoebe Joyce Myers  
*Child and Family Studies*

Jonathan Nguyen  
*Economics*

Logan Kate Nichols  
*Individualized Major*

Virginia Ann Norris  
*History*

†Julianne Elise Outlaw  
*Business*

†Madeline G. Owens, *Distinction in Performance Music*

Kristyn Ann Pantin  
*Special Education: Deaf and Hard of Hearing*

Amaia Nicole Parkins  
*Child and Family Studies*

Anna Catherine Patterson  
*Individualized Major*

**Makailah Arreyona Patterson  
*Studio Art*

†Elizabeth Kennedy Poole  
*Theatre  
Early Childhood Education*

Mary Beth Allison Poole  
*Psychology*

Cassidy Lyn Price  
*Art Education*

Abbey Caroline Ray  
*Special Education: Learning Disabilities*

Madelyn Zeta Robinson  
*Special Education: Learning Disabilities*

Kayla Mae Rocha  
*Business Administration  
Psychology*

Alexandra Gabrielle Romero  
*Business Administration*

Isabella L. Roper  
*Early Childhood Education  
History*
Jordyn Taylor Rose  
*Mathematics*

**Emilia J. Ruiz  
*Business Administration*

Arianna Natalia Saldi  
*Business*

Emily G. Sark  
*Art Therapy*

Jonathan David Schrader  
*Biology*

Anna Elizabeth Scott  
*History*  
*Politics*

*Maximilian Seiwald  
*Business Administration*

Zoe Spearman  
*History*

Chance Alexander Spicuzza  
*Child and Family Studies*

Jackson Weaver Stokes  
*Politics*

Caroline Jameson Stubbs  
*History*

Quiana Michelle Suber  
*Business Administration*

Neyhla Blu Tep  
*Psychology*

Ellory Kate Tingle  
*Art Therapy*

Jillian Tippie  
*Music*

Jemma Van Jaarsveldt  
*Musical Theatre*  
*Dance*

Elizabeth Noel Vega  
*Elementary Education*

Marinelly Vega  
*Business Administration*

Robert Ryan Vinson  
*History*

**Anabella Rose Walker  
*Psychology*  
*Music*

Rhianna Grace Warner  
*Elementary Education*  
*Business Administration*

**Katie Bryant Watts  
*Psychology*  
*Child and Family Studies*

Mackenzie Brooke Weatherford  
*Business Administration*

Daven Poag West  
*Business Administration*

Kasey L. White  
*Biology*

Natalie White  
*Biology*

Samantha Katlyn White  
*Hispanic Studies*  
*Politics*

Adailya Dominique Wilkins  
*Studio Art*

Jasmyn Saia Williams  
*Politics*  
*Hispanic Studies*

Mackenzie Grace Williams  
*Early Childhood Education*

Shelisa Ann Williams  
*Philosophy*
BACHELOR OF ARTS (CONT.)

**Krystal Alexandria Wilson**  
Child and Family Studies

**Ella Grace Ziel**  
English  
Theatre

Elizabeth Mae Wypych  
Child and Family Studies

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Neely Grace Adams  
Accounting

**Helena Nicole Noel**  
Business Administration

Hallie Lexine Amrhein  
Accounting

Cailey Adeline Owens  
Business Administration

Jennifer Yeboaa Damoah  
Accounting

Marleen Prinz  
Business Administration  
Mathematics

Mary-Grace Elizabeth Durham  
Accounting

Jordyn Taylor Rose  
Biochemistry

Brooklyn Raye Galler  
Biochemistry

Ladajah Watson  
Biology

Sierra Roxanne Godfrey  
Mathematics  
Economics

Breanna M. Willimon  
Accounting

**Jennifer D. Hardy**  
Computer Science

Sydney Lynn Wilson  
Mathematics  
Computer Science

Ryleigh Grace Henderson  
Mathematics  
Biology

Erin Summer Young  
Biochemistry

Sarah Elizabeth Hitchens  
Accounting

Robin Zeman  
Chemistry

Emily Rose Ingle  
Chemistry

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

Isabella Renee Avant  
Art Interior Design

Kathleen G. Beardsley  
Art Interior Design

Kayla Grace Bailey  
Art Interior Design

Hailey C. Ellis  
Art Interior Design
BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS (CONT)

Ava E. Jerolaman  
*Art Interior Design*

Brianna Nicole Lee  
*Art Interior Design*

Mable Ni  
*Studio Art*

Breanna Elizabeth Weber  
*Art Interior Design*

Jennings Elizabeth Whitt  
*Studio Art*

BACHELOR OF MUSIC

Ivana Joy Carlson, *Distinction in Performance*  
*Music Performance - Strings*

**An Mei Li Campbell  
*Music Therapy*

**Lydia Marie Carver  
*Music Therapy*

**Victoria DeAnn Conner  
*Music Therapy*

Rita Taylor Kaiulanipomaikai Dunn  
*Music Performance - Strings*

†Mary Ashton Garrett  
*Music Education - Choral*

Joshua C. Wood, *Distinction in Composition*  
*Music Composition*

Julia Victoria Gergley  
*Music Performance - Piano*

Nicolas Simon Mishler  
*Music Performance - Voice*

Lauren E. Sellars  
*Music Performance - Winds*

Mallory Tanner Smith  
*Music Education - Choral*

Ethan Joseph Watkins  
*Music Education - Instrumental*

BACHELOR OF MUSICAL ARTS

Augustine Philip Tyler Donguines  
*Contemporary Music (Music Media)*

The list of degree candidates and academic honors was compiled from applications for degrees before final grades were recorded. The listing of a name in this program does not necessarily mean the degree will be awarded.

*In Absentia*

**Early Commencement participants*

†Participants who are direct descendants of Converse alumni and are hooded today by family representatives
Candidates for Graduate Degrees

Doctorate in Professional Leadership

Emily Faye Brashier
BA, Marshall University
MEd, Liberty University

Saterria Williams Broomfield
BA, Wofford College
MEd, Converse University
MEd, Southern Wesleyan University

Teresa Goins Curvin
BS, University of Tennessee
MEd, Lee University
AAS, Paducah Community College

Victoria Lynn Garrett
BA, Converse College
MAT, Converse College

Megan Rains Georgion
BA, University of North Carolina at Wilmington
MEd, Northeastern University

Meirav Ly Goldhour-Shvorin
BDes, The College of Management Academic Studies
MFA, University of Georgia

Matthew Kermit Hammett
BA, Lander University
MEd, Clemson University

Gary Lee Hazelwood
BA, University of North Carolina at Wilmington
MEd, University of Texas at Tyler

Betsy Van Jura Hollar
BA, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
MAT, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Stacie Leigh Howell
BS, Western Carolina University
MAT, Converse College

Kala Marie Hudson
BA, North Greenville University
MLIS, University of South Carolina

Glenn Zenny McGinnis Jr.
BS, Western Carolina University
MA, Appalachian State University

Dione V. Morris
BM, Converse College
MBA, Webster University
EdS, Converse College

Shakara Denise Morrison-Shuford
BA, Wofford College
MEd, Elon University
MSA, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Lawan Nicole Neely
BS, Anderson University
MA, Webster University
MAT, Clemson University

Zachary Len Nicks
BS, Clemson University
MAT, Clemson University

Jessica Linneth Lozada
BS, Temple University
MEd, Eastern University

Yesenia Ruiz
BBA-HCM, Anderson University
MOL, Anderson University

Dotan Israel Shvorin
BSc, Ruppin Academy
MS, Clemson University
PhD, Clemson University
## EDUCATION SPECIALIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Kayla Elizabeth Finn</td>
<td>BA, Coker College, MT, University of SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney Roe Ford</td>
<td>BS, Clemson University, MAT, Clemson University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Casey Denise Hill</td>
<td>BA, Coker College, MED, Grand Canyon University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandie Lea Minton</td>
<td>BA, University of SC, MAT, Converse College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stacey Petty Pianella</td>
<td>BA, Converse College, MED, Southern Wesleyan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Queen Waters</td>
<td>BS, Limestone University, MEd, Converse College</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marilyn Baughan</td>
<td>BFA, Clemson University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindanette Draughn</td>
<td>BS, St. Augustine’s University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chauntelle Bennett Hardin</td>
<td>BA, University of Alaska Fairbanks, MA, University of TN-K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexis Jimenez</td>
<td>BS, College of Charleston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maggie Lowery</td>
<td>BA, Gardner-Webb University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Cash Ozmint</td>
<td>BA, University of Alabama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynne Milford Skinner</td>
<td>BS, Appalachian State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Marie Spurlin</td>
<td>BS, Winthrop University, MS, Arizona State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Madison Yerger</td>
<td>BA, Wofford College</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## MASTER OF EDUCATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Caroline Harrell Baum</td>
<td>BA, Anderson University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**Ashley Nicole Murff</td>
<td>BS, Francis Marion University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**Makayla Rae Beam</td>
<td>BA, Shepherd University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**Brittney K. Meyer</td>
<td>BFA, Bob Jones University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Marie Newell Duncan</td>
<td>BA, University of SC Upstate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**Marjorie Pruitt</td>
<td>BA, Grand Canyon University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jake Jacobs</td>
<td>BA, Wofford College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayla Suddeth Vinson</td>
<td>BA, Converse University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Jennifer Weinland  
BFA, Eastern Connecticut State University**  
Samantha Nicole Willis  
BA, Converse College

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**MASTER OF FINE ARTS**

*Marlanda Dekine  
BA, Furman University  
MSW, University of South Carolina*

Laurel J. Eshelman  
BS, Wheaton College

*Michael D. Hull  
BSIM, Purdue University  
MBA, Indiana University*

Crystal Tennille Irby  
BS, Florida State University

**Kelsey Stancliffe  
BA, West Virginia Wesleyan College  
MSW, Tulane University**

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**MASTER IN MANAGEMENT**

Adara Joy Aho  
BA, Converse University

Pamela Lancaster Greenway  
BA, Queens University

Bosko Bojovic  
BA, Belmont Abbey

Hayli Michele Keith  
BS, Francis Marion University

Eva Carballo  
AA, Marshalltown Community College  
BS, Converse University

Karen J. Mims  
BA, Converse College

Matthew J. Cash  
BA, University of South Carolina Upstate

Jimmie Sanders  
BA, Converse University

Allison Jean Dunlap  
BA, University of South Carolina

María Belén Vendrell  
BA, BS Converse University

†Taylor Ann Goldfuss  
BA, Converse University
MASTER OF LIBERAL ARTS

Ansley Victoria Hodge
BA, Converse College

MASTER OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

**Julie Bjorndahl
BA, Kristiania University College

**Caitlin Fountain Brown
BA, Converse College

**Alyssa BreAnne Bryant
BS, University of South Carolina Upstate

**Kelsey Carithers
BA, Gardner-Webb University

**Abigale Chavarria
BA, Cottey College

†**Lara E. Dym
BA, Wofford College

**Jamie Ann Guay
BS, Bridgewater State University

**Katherine Manley Halstensgard
BA, Winthrop University

**Jaime Truth Hammer
BA, Furman University

**Lauren Hawk
BS, Northeast Missouri State

**Ashlyn Benfield Hawkins
BS, Southern New Hampshire University

**Elizabeth Anne Howerton
BA, Mary Baldwin College

**Amanda Isler
BA, Converse College

**Mary Pitts Keel
BS, Converse University

**Hunter Roderick McLeod
BS, University of South Carolina Upstate

**Kayla Turner Meirelles
BA, Arizona State University

**Laquinta Meredith
BS, University of South Carolina Upstate

**Caitlynn Crocker Orders
BS, Wofford College

Daylee Jeanie Alon Pruitt
BMA, Converse University

**Tabitha Dawn Scheffler
BS, University of Central Florida

**Olivia Victoria Shanton
BS, Grand Canyon University

Hunter Draco Shock
BA, University of South Carolina Beaufort

**Katherine Grace Spurling
BA, Converse University

**Sherretta Thomas
BS, South Carolina State University

†**Katelyn Grace White
BS, Presbyterian College

**Abigail Elena Wilhelm
BS, Utah State University
MASTER OF MUSIC

†**Lanna Hope Belue  
*BM, Converse University

Matthew Thomas Latzka  
*BA, North Greenville University

Catherine Sarah Black, Distinction in Performance  
*BM, University of South Carolina

Jonah Brandon Losh  
*BA, North Greenville University

Mark Wayne Eisenbrey  
*BM, East Tennessee State University

†Somerset Sadie Sewell  
*BA, Converse University

Julie Tran Keeling  
*BM, Converse College

Caroline Spearman Starling  
*BS, Francis Marion University

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* In Absentia

** Early Commencement participants

†Participants who are direct descendants of Converse alumni
ALMA MATER

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.