



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

THE INVESTITURE OF THE PRESIDENT
MICHAEL D. AMIRIDIS, PH.D.



JANUARY 20, 2023

10:00 A.M.

KOGER CENTER FOR THE ARTS



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

THE INVESTITURE OF THE 30TH PRESIDENT
MICHAEL D. AMIRIDIS, PH.D.

THE PROCESSION

THE PROCESSIONAL

“Procession of the Nobles”

University of South Carolina Symphony Orchestra

Conducted by Dr. Cormac Cannon

THE UNIVERSITY MACE

Ms. Reedy Newton

USC Columbia Student Body President

PRESIDENTS AND CHANCELLORS OF OTHER COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

In the order of their founding

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY

Led by Dr. Audrey Korsgaard

Chair of the USC Columbia Faculty Senate

UNIVERSITY DEANS

Led by Dr. Donna K. Arnett

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM CHANCELLORS

Led by Mr. J. Derham Cole Jr.

Vice President for System Affairs

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Led by Dr. Luther Cameron Howell IV

Secretary to the Board of Trustees

THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

The Honorable Thad H. Westbrook

Chair of the Board of Trustees

THE PLATFORM PARTY

THE GOVERNOR

The Honorable Henry D. McMaster

THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Michael D. Amiridis



THE INVESTITURE CEREMONY

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Board of Trustees Chair Thad H. Westbrook

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

University of South Carolina Symphony Orchestra and Concert Choir
Conducted by Dr. Cormac Cannon

THE INVOCATION

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros (Lambriniadis) of America
Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

GREETINGS TO THE UNIVERSITY AND THE PRESIDENT

THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Governor Henry McMaster

THE FACULTY

Dr. Audrey Korsgaard
Chair of the USC Columbia Faculty Senate

THE STAFF

Dr. Rushondra James
Chair of the USC Columbia Staff Senate

THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Mr. J. Derham Cole Jr.
Vice President for System Affairs

THE STUDENT BODY

Ms. Reedy Newton
President of the USC Columbia Student Body

THE ALUMNI

Ms. Elizabeth Scott Moïse
President of the USC Alumni Association

INVESTITURE SPEAKERS

“Access, Affordability and Attainment: Reimagining American Higher Education for the 21st Century”

Dr. Robert J. Jones
*Chancellor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
and Vice President, University of Illinois System*

“Opportunities Abound: The Gift of Challenging Times”

Dr. Mark Becker
President, Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

“True Colors”
*by Billy Steinberg/Tom Kelly
Arranged by Matthew Brown*
University of South Carolina Symphony Orchestra and Concert Choir
*Olivia Colomaio, piano
Conducted by Dr. Alicia Walker*

THE CHARGE TO THE PRESIDENT

Chair Westbrook

THE PRESENTATION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

Dr. Korsgaard and Chair Westbrook

RESPONSE AND INVESTITURE REMARKS

President Michael D. Amiridis

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

“America the Beautiful”
University of South Carolina Symphony Orchestra and Concert Choir
Conducted by Dr. Scott Weiss

THE BENEDICTION

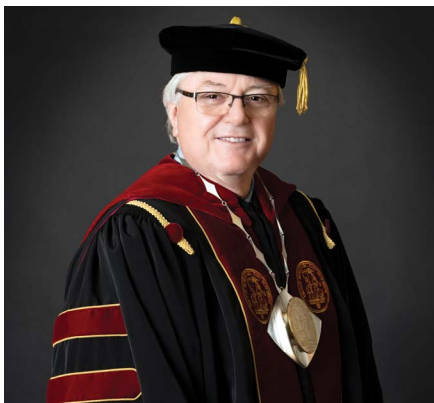
His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros (Lambriniadis) of America

THE ALMA MATER

University of South Carolina Symphony Orchestra and Concert Choir
Conducted by Dr. Quintus F. Wrighten Jr.

THE RECESSIONAL OF THE PLATFORM PARTY

“Washington Post March”
University of South Carolina Symphony Orchestra
Conducted by Dr. Quintus F. Wrighten Jr.



MICHAEL D. AMIRIDIS, PH.D.

30TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Michael Amiridis was born in Kavala, a coastal town in northern Greece, in 1962. He is the elder of the two sons — Michael and Gianni — of the late Dimitri and Aspasia Amiridis. A first-generation college student, he left his hometown at 18 to study chemical engineering at the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki, following his love for chemistry and mathematics. He graduated first in his class in July 1985 and came to the U.S. a month later to pursue his doctoral degree, graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1991 with a Ph.D. in chemical engineering. He received an honorary doctoral degree in materials science and engineering from the University of Ioannina in Greece in 2017.

For three years after earning his Ph.D., he worked as a research engineer at W.R. Grace and Co., an international manufacturer of specialty chemicals and materials, in Columbia, Maryland, and taught for a semester at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. With a desire to teach and conduct academic research, he left the private sector in 1994 and accepted a position as assistant professor of chemical engineering at the University of South Carolina.

At USC, Amiridis steadily advanced in positions of increasing responsibility and leadership. He was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 1999, took a year-long sabbatical at the University of Poitiers in France and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich, and was promoted to professor in 2003. He became chair of Chemical Engineering in 2002, dean of Engineering and Computing in 2006 — while he was the college's youngest faculty member at the rank of professor — and USC's executive vice president for academic affairs and provost in 2009.

Amiridis has received numerous teaching awards, including the Michael J. Mungo Undergraduate and Graduate Teaching Awards and the Samuel Litman Distinguished Professor Award. As a researcher, he earned the National Science Foundation's CAREER award in 1996, the USC College of Engineering and Computing Research Achievement Award in 2005, and the University of Wisconsin Marshall Founders' Lecture Award in 2014. With over \$15 million in research funding as principal investigator and 110 peer-reviewed journal publications, he was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2012 and of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers in 2015.

"During this entire journey, I always felt most proud about the success of my students — undergraduate and graduate — and their impact on our world," Amiridis has said of his faculty career. In addition to his classroom teaching, he supervised the research work of over 60 undergraduates (including recipients of a Rhodes Scholarship, seven NSF graduate fellowships and four Goldwater Scholarships), the completion of 22 doctoral theses, and the training of 11 postdoctoral associates. His students have honored him with three Mortar Board awards and a Golden Key award.

As provost at USC, Amiridis led efforts for growth in student enrollment, with significant improvement in the quality of the undergraduate class. He initiated an ambitious faculty hiring program, creating 200 new tenure positions in a four-year period, and developed an academic dashboard to monitor success. Under his leadership, new university-wide programs were implemented, including Palmetto College, the new Carolina Core curriculum, and Global Carolina. He also led the process to create the USC School of Medicine in Greenville.

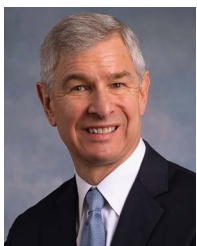
In 2015, Amiridis was appointed chancellor of the University of Illinois-Chicago. During his tenure, UIC achieved historic highs in student enrollments (34,000) and annual research awards (\$450 million), initiated an ambitious capital program to renew its infrastructure, initiated and completed a \$750 million capital campaign, and acquired the John Marshall School of Law as the first public law school in Chicago history. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and was appointed by governor-elect J.B. Pritzker to his Educational Transition Committee.

Active at the national level, Amiridis was elected to the boards of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) and Urban Serving Universities (USU), where he is the current chair. In October 2022, HACU honored him with the President's Award of Excellence for his efforts to diversify UIC's senior leadership and to create opportunities for Hispanic students. HACU also recognized Amiridis' national initiative to create the Alliance of Hispanic-Serving Research Universities. In July 2022, the Carnegie Corporation of New York selected him for the 2022 class of Great Immigrants, celebrating the exemplary contributions of immigrants whose work has strengthened American society and democracy.

In January 2022, Amiridis was unanimously selected by the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees to lead the state's flagship university system and became the 30th president of the university on July 1. Accepting the position, Amiridis described his return to USC as a homecoming and expressed his commitment to what the university can accomplish. "Through academics, research and its vibrant culture, the University of South Carolina system is critically important to the people of South Carolina and to the state's future. I feel privileged to be able to lead this great institution."

Amiridis and his wife of 32 years, Ero Aggelopoulou-Amiridis, have two children, both graduates of the South Carolina Honors College. Their daughter, Aspasia, earned her bachelor's degree in biochemistry and molecular biology in 2019, and their son, Dimitri, earned a bachelor's degree in computer engineering in 2022. Both are pursuing advanced degrees in their fields at other universities. Dr. Aggelopoulou-Amiridis also earned two advanced degrees from USC — a master's in art history in 1997 and a Ph.D. in philosophy in 2012.

INVESTITURE SPEAKERS

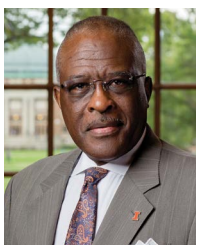


DR. MARK BECKER

Mark Becker is president of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, a research, policy, and advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of public research universities. The association's membership consists of more than 250 public research universities, land-grant institutions, state university systems and affiliated organizations. He had previously served as a member of APLU's Board of Directors and as chair of the Board for the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities, which has a permanent partnership with APLU.

His academic career has included serving as a post-doctoral fellow, professor, dean, provost, and president at flagships, land-grants and urban serving institutions. From January 2009 to August 2021, Becker was the seventh president of Georgia State University. Becker led the transformation of Georgia State from a formerly little-known "commuter school" into one of the nation's premier urban research universities. He served as executive vice president for academic affairs and provost at the University of South Carolina from 2004 to 2008.

Becker attended Harford Community College in Maryland and earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Towson State University and a doctoral degree in statistics from the Pennsylvania State University. Becker has received numerous awards and recognitions, including being named one of America's 10 most innovative university presidents by *Washington Monthly*.



DR. ROBERT J. JONES

Robert Jones is chancellor of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and vice president, University of Illinois System. He previously served as president of the University at Albany, State University of New York (SUNY). A Georgia native born in 1951, Jones earned a bachelor's degree in agronomy from Fort Valley State College, a master's degree in crop physiology from the University of Georgia, and a doctorate in crop physiology from the University of Missouri, Columbia. He began his academic career as a faculty member at Minnesota in 1978. An experienced and accomplished scientist and research-university leader, he is also recognized as an internationally respected authority on plant physiology.

Under his leadership, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has achieved major milestones, such as hiring its inaugural vice chancellor for diversity, equity, and inclusion, completing the largest philanthropic campaign in the institution's history, and launching the Illinois Commitment program to make college education affordable and accessible to Illinois students from low-income families.

Throughout his career, Jones has worked to make education available to promising young scholars around the world. He is an accomplished vocalist and serves on the boards of multiple national and international organizations.



HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS (LAMBRINIADIS) OF AMERICA

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Most Honorable Exarch of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, is the eighth Archbishop of America elected since the establishment of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in 1922.

He was born in 1967 in Bakirköy, Istanbul. He graduated from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki — School of Pastoral and Social Theology in 1991 and finished post-graduate studies at the University of Bonn, Germany. He was ordained a deacon in 1994 and in 1995 was appointed Deputy Secretary of the Holy and Sacred Synod. In 2001, he earned a doctorate of theology with highest distinction at the Theological School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. In 2005, he was promoted by the Holy and Sacred Synod to Chief Secretary and ordained to the priesthood.

He has served on the Joint International Commission for the Theological Dialogue between the Orthodox Church and the Lutheran World Federation and as a member of the Patriarchal delegations to the General Assemblies of the Conference of European Churches and the World Council of Churches. He was Secretary of the Pan-Orthodox Synods in Sofia, Istanbul, Geneva, and Istanbul.

In 2019, he was elected Archbishop of America by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and enthroned at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York City.

ALMA MATER

We hail thee, Carolina, and sing thy high praise;
With loyal devotion, rememb'ring the days,
When proudly we sought thee, thy children to be;
Here's a health, Carolina, forever to thee!

Since pilgrims of learning, we entered thy walls,
And found dearest comrades in thy classic halls;
We've honored and loved thee, as sons faithfully;
Here's a health, Carolina, forever to thee!

Generations of sons have rejoiced to proclaim
Thy watchword of service, thy beauty and fame
For ages to come shall their rallying cry be;
Here's a health, Carolina, forever to thee!

Fair shrine of high honor and truth, thou shalt still
Blaze forth as a beacon, thy mission fulfill;
And be crowned by all hearts in a new jubilee;
Here's a health, Carolina, forever to thee!



THE CAROLINIAN CREED

The community of scholars at the University of South Carolina is dedicated to personal and academic excellence. Choosing to join the community obligates each member to a code of civilized behavior. Allegiance to these ideals requires each Carolinian to refrain from and discourage behaviors which threaten the freedom and respect every individual deserves.

As a Carolinian...

I will practice
personal and academic integrity;

I will respect
the dignity of all persons;

I will respect
the rights and property of others;

I will discourage
bigotry, while striving to learn from
differences in people, ideas, and opinions;

I will demonstrate
concern for others, their feelings, and their need for
conditions which support their work and development.



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The university is governed on behalf of the people of South Carolina by a Board of Trustees. Sixteen trustees are elected by the General Assembly, one from each Judicial Circuit. There are three ex officio members, including the governor of South Carolina or a designee, the state superintendent of education, and the president of the University of South Carolina Alumni Association. There is also one at-large gubernatorial appointee. The president of the Student Government and the chair of the Faculty Senate serve as non-voting members of the board.

The current composition of the board is as follows:

<p>Henry D. McMaster <i>Governor of South Carolina ex officio Chair</i></p>	<p>Miles Loadholt <i>2nd Judicial Circuit</i></p>
<p>Thad H. Westbrook <i>11th Judicial Circuit Chair</i></p>	<p>Hubert F. Mobley <i>6th Judicial Circuit</i></p>
<p>Rose Buyck Newton <i>14th Judicial Circuit Vice Chair</i></p>	<p>Elizabeth Scott Moïse <i>USC Alumni Association</i></p>
<p>C. Dorn Smith III, M.D. <i>3rd Judicial Circuit Chair Emeritus</i></p>	<p>Leah B. Moody <i>16th Judicial Circuit</i></p>
<p>C. Dan Adams <i>Gubernatorial Designee</i></p>	<p>Emma W. Morris <i>10th Judicial Circuit</i></p>
<p>Alex English <i>5th Judicial Circuit</i></p>	<p>John C. von Lehe Jr. <i>9th Judicial Circuit</i></p>
<p>C. Edward Floyd, M.D. <i>12th Judicial Circuit</i></p>	<p>Ellen Weaver <i>Superintendent of Education</i></p>
<p>Brian C. Harlan <i>8th Judicial Circuit</i></p>	<p>Mack I. Whittle Jr. <i>13th Judicial Circuit</i></p>
<p>Richard A. Jones Jr. <i>Gubernatorial Appointee</i></p>	<p>Charles H. Williams II <i>1st Judicial Circuit</i></p>
<p>Toney J. Lister <i>7th Judicial Circuit</i></p>	<p>Audrey Korsgaard <i>USC Columbia Faculty Senate Chair</i></p>
	<p>Reedy Newton <i>USC Columbia Student Body President</i></p>
	<p>Luther Cameron Howell IV <i>Board Secretary</i></p>

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA OFFICERS

Michael D. Amiridis, Ph.D., *President*

Caroline Agardy, M.P.A., *Vice President for Human Resources*

Donna K. Arnett, Ph.D., *Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
and Provost*

J. Derham Cole Jr., J.D., *Vice President for System Affairs*

Michelle Dodenhoff, B.A., *Vice President for Development*

Susan A. Elkins, Ed.D., *Chancellor, Palmetto College*

Douglas R. Foster, M.S., *Vice President for Information Technology and
Chief Information Officer*

Julius Fridriksson, Ph.D., *Vice President for Research*

Stacy Fritz, Ph.D., *Chief of Staff*

Bennie L. Harris, Ph.D., *Chancellor, USC Upstate*

Daniel J. Heimmermann, Ph.D., *Chancellor, USC Aiken*

Al M. Panu, Ph.D., *Chancellor, USC Beaufort*

Walter H. Parham, J.D., *General Counsel and Executive Director of
Compliance Programs*

D. Ray Tanner Jr., M.P.A., *Director of Athletics*

Larry Thomas, M.P.A., *Vice President for Communications*

J. Rex Tolliver, J.D., *Vice President for Student Affairs and Academic Support*

Scott Verzyl, M.B.A., *Vice President for Enrollment Management and Dean of
Undergraduate Admissions*

Edward L. Walton, B.A., *Executive Vice President for Administration and
Chief Financial Officer*

Julian R. Williams, J.D., *Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA ACADEMIC OFFICIALS

Cheryl L. Addy, Ph.D., *Vice Provost, Dean of Faculty, and Interim Dean of the Graduate School*

Jeannette O. Andrews, Ph.D., *Dean, College of Nursing*

David Banush, M.L.I.S., *Dean, University Libraries*

Janice Bass, Ph.D., *Interim Dean, Darla Moore School of Business*

Teri Browne, Ph.D., *Interim Dean, College of Social Work*

David A. Cárdenas, Ph.D., *Interim Dean, College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management*

G. Thomas Chandler, Ph.D., *Dean, Arnold School of Public Health*

Walter P. Collins III, Ph.D., *Palmetto College Campus Dean, USC Lancaster*

April Cone, D.N.P., *Palmetto College Campus Dean, USC Salkehatchie*

M. Ron Cox Jr., Ph.D., *Palmetto College Campus Dean, USC Columbia*

Stephen J. Cutler, Ph.D., *College of Pharmacy*

Hossein Haj-Hariri, Ph.D., *Dean, College of Engineering and Computing*

Leslie W. Hall, M.D., *Dean, School of Medicine Columbia*

C. Tayloe Harding Jr., D.Mus., *Dean, School of Music*

Thomas E. Hodges, Ph.D., *Dean, College of Education*

William C. Hubbard, J.D., *Dean, School of Law*

Marjorie R. Jenkins, M.D., *Dean, School of Medicine Greenville*

Sandra J. Kelly, Ph.D., *Vice Provost, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, and Director of Global Carolina*

Randy Lowell, Ph.D., *Palmetto College Campus Dean, USC Union*

Steven Lynn, Ph.D., *Dean, South Carolina Honors College*

Tom Reichert, Ph.D., *Dean, College of Information and Communications*

Joel H. Samuels, J.D., *Dean, College of Arts and Sciences*

Michael E. Sonntag, Ph.D., *Palmetto College Campus Dean, USC Sumter*

PRESIDENTIAL INVESTITURE

The presidential investiture ceremony is an academic event that is typically held during a new president's first year. The formal ceremony signifies the beginning of a new chapter of leadership for the university, and it provides an opportunity for the university, guests and community to witness the formal installation of the new leader.



THE UNIVERSITY MACE AND PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

The University Mace was designed and fashioned by Leslie Durbin, distinguished silversmith of London, England. Academic maces are historically regarded as manifestations of the “immortal dignity” of universities and thus represent the past, present and future. Officially adopted in 1967, the mace was presented to the university as a memorial to Susan Richardson Guignard by an alumnus, Dr. George Curry.

The brilliantly gleaming silver-and-gilt mace is nearly four feet long. Mounted on the head are the seal of the university, the seal of the State of South Carolina and the Great Seal of the United States. From the middle of these arises a stylistic representation of the State Tree, the palmetto, the fronds of which are formed by a group of 13 stars, representing the founding colonies, which include South Carolina. The shaft is decorated with eight stars, reminding us that South Carolina was the eighth state to enter the Union.

The University Mace is carried in procession on occasions of outstanding importance, such as commencements, convocations and formal dedications. The placement of the mace on its stand signals that the proceedings are about to come to order; its retirement indicates the conclusion of the exercises. The mace is carried in procession by the president of Student Government and escorted by the university chaplain and representatives of the faculty, emeriti, alumni, the Board of Trustees and the university community at large.

The significance of the mace is mirrored in the Presidential Medallion and Chain of Office, which designate the wearer as the temporary embodiment of the institution's power and authority. The gift of the medallion accompanied the gift of the mace, and the linked silver Chain of Office was commissioned in 1991 by the Presidential Candidate Search Committee. Traditionally, the chair of the university's Board of Trustees carries the medallion in procession.

ACADEMIC COSTUMES

The academic costumes worn in today's procession and at other formal university occasions trace their origins to those worn by faculty and students at medieval European universities. With only minor modifications, these costumes have remained largely unchanged since the 16th century. Standards for colleges and universities in the United States were established in 1895 with the adoption of an intercollegiate code that specifies design and color appropriate for various degrees. As in medieval times, the costumes worn on formal academic occasions denote the wearer's academic heritage.

The modern academic costume consists of three parts: the gown or robe, a headpiece, and a hood. The gown denotes the wearer's level of education.

The baccalaureate gown is the simplest in design. Usually black, it is distinguished by a wide yoke with shirring in front and back and by open flowing sleeves that end in a point. The baccalaureate gown is worn closed.

The master's gown is similar to the baccalaureate gown except that it has a closed or glove sleeve that is open at the wrist. The master's gown has no other trim and may be worn either open or closed.

The doctoral gown is full flowing and has large, bell-shaped sleeves. It is trimmed with velvet panels down the front and has velvet bars on the sleeves. While black is still the predominant color for doctoral gowns, the trim may be in a color that denotes the wearer's discipline, or the color of the gown may denote the wearer's university. The University of South Carolina's doctoral gown is garnet with black velvet panels and bars. The university seal is embroidered on the panels. In today's procession, this gown is worn by the members of the Board of Trustees and university officers, chancellors, deans, faculty and administrators.

The mortar board is the headpiece most often worn at American universities for formal occasions. It is appropriately worn with the board flat on the top of the head and with the tassel falling from the left quarter of the board. Tassel colors denote the field or discipline in which the wearer's degree was earned. Doctoral tassels are often gold. The soft velvet Tudor cap is also worn by many who hold the doctorate.

While the gown and headpiece denote the wearer's level of education, it is the hood that adds meaning and dimension to the academic costume. Changed little since medieval times, the hood is worn falling from the shoulders, down the back of the gown in a display of vivid color. It is edged in velvet, which by its color denotes the field or discipline in which the wearer's degree was earned, and it is lined in two colors of silk that represent the college or university from which the degree was earned. Hence, the University of South Carolina hood is lined in garnet and black and edged with the appropriate discipline color.

The USC president's ceremonial gown is black with four garnet velvet bars on the sleeves and garnet velvet panels down the front, all trimmed with antique-gold cording. The university seal is embroidered on the panels. Presidents are the only academics entitled to wear the fourth bar on their sleeves. The president's regalia is completed by a black velvet doctoral tam with an antique-gold tassel. The ceremonial hood is edged in garnet velvet and lined with garnet-and-black silk, representative of the University of South Carolina.

A partial listing from the Intercollegiate Code for colors signifying disciplines follows:

Arts, Letters, Humanities: white	Nursing: apricot
Accountancy, Business, Commerce: drab	Pharmacy: olive green
Education: light blue	Philosophy: dark blue
Engineering: orange	Physical Education: sage green
Fine Arts: brown	Physical Therapy: teal
Journalism: crimson	Public Health: salmon pink
Law: purple	Public Service: peacock blue
Library Science: lemon	Science: golden yellow
Medicine: green	Social Science: cream
Music: pink	Social Work: citron

CAROLINA — A HISTORICAL NOTE

“FAITHFUL INDEX TO THE AMBITIONS AND FORTUNES OF THE STATE”

The Palmetto State established South Carolina College on December 19, 1801, as part of an effort to unite South Carolinians in the wake of the American Revolution, promoting “the good order and harmony” of the state. The founding of South Carolina’s state college was also part of the Southern public college movement spurred by Thomas Jefferson. Within 20 years of one another, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia established state-supported colleges.

In the antebellum era, the Palmetto State generously supported South Carolina College. Its faculty included noted European scholars, such as Francis Lieber and Thomas Cooper, as well as renowned American scholars John and Joseph LeConte. Offering a classical curriculum, South Carolina College became one of the South’s most influential colleges, earning a reputation as the training ground for South Carolina’s antebellum elite.

South Carolina’s secession from the Union unleashed the devastation of the American Civil War, and the state and South Carolina College paid dearly. The institution closed for want of students, and in the ensuing decades it struggled to regain its former status.

As Reconstruction from the Civil War proceeded, the state’s General Assembly chose the first African-Americans to serve on the University’s Board of Trustees in 1868, and in 1873, the first black students enrolled. While politically controversial, this development was an extraordinary opportunity at a time when opportunities for higher education were rare. The University of South Carolina became the only Southern state university to admit and grant degrees to African-American students during the Reconstruction era.

Following the end of Reconstruction in 1877, South Carolina’s conservative leaders closed the university. They reopened it in 1880 as an all-white agricultural college, and during the next 25 years, the institution became enmeshed in the state’s political upheaval. South Carolina went through several reorganizations in which the curriculum changed and its status shifted from college to university and back again. The university also struggled to adjust to the arrival of intercollegiate athletics in 1892 and the admission of white women in 1894.

In 1906, the institution was rechartered for the final time as the University of South Carolina. In 1917, it became South Carolina’s first state-supported college or university to earn regional accreditation, and the 1920s brought the introduction of new colleges and degree programs, including the doctorate.

The Great Depression temporarily stalled progress, but the outbreak of World War II launched an era that transformed the university. South Carolina hosted naval training programs during the war, and enrollment more than doubled in the post-war era as veterans took advantage of the G.I. Bill. In the 1950s, the university began recruiting national-caliber faculty members and expanded its footprint with the establishment of campuses across South Carolina.

In 1963, the University of South Carolina became desegregated. As the result of a federal court order, Henrie D. Monteith, Robert Anderson and James Solomon became the first African-American students to enroll at the university in the 20th century. Minority enrollment would continue to grow in their wake and was complemented by a substantial international student population in subsequent decades.

At the same time, the university was undergoing explosive growth as the baby-boom generation entered college. Enrollment stood at 5,660 in 1960 but nearly quadrupled 20 years later. That increase in the student body was accompanied by the introduction of many new programs, including three that would prove to be momentous.

University 101 became a national model for cultivating freshmen-year success; the accompanying National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition is based at the university. The international Master of Business Administration program, also launched in the 1970s, has consistently ranked among the country’s top three such programs. The honors program blossomed into the South Carolina Honors College and is hailed among the nation’s finest.

As the result of concerted efforts to expand its research capabilities, the university in 2006 was designated by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a research institution of “very high research activity,” the foundation’s highest classification. The university is one of a select number of public universities to receive both the Carnegie Foundation’s top-tier research designation and community engagement designation.

South Carolina’s Bicentennial Campaign helped usher in the 21st century as the university celebrated a 200-year legacy of educating leaders for the state, the nation, and the world. In recent years, the University of South Carolina system has launched an online degree-completion program through Palmetto College. Together with the college’s four campuses across the state, the online program offers students greater flexibility to complete coursework and speeds bachelor’s degree completion. These comprehensive programs have helped the university secure its place as a first-choice destination for students seeking the lifelong value of a quality higher education experience.



PRESIDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Jonathan Maxcy <i>President, 1804-1820</i>	William Porcher Miles <i>President, 1880-1882</i>	Norman M. Smith <i>President, 1945-1952</i>
Thomas Cooper <i>President pro tem, 1820</i> <i>President, 1821-1834</i>	John M. McBryde <i>Chairman of the Faculty,</i> <i>1883-1891</i> <i>President, 1883-1891</i>	Francis W. Bradley <i>Acting President, 1952</i>
Robert Henry <i>President pro tem, 1834</i> <i>President, 1841-1845</i>	James Woodrow <i>President, 1891-1897</i>	Donald S. Russell <i>President, 1952-1957</i>
Henry Junius Nott <i>Chairman of the Faculty,</i> <i>1834-1835</i>	Frank C. Woodward <i>President, 1897-1902</i>	Robert L. Sumwalt <i>Acting President,</i> <i>1957-1959</i> <i>President, 1959-1962</i>
Robert W. Barnwell <i>President, 1835-1841</i> <i>Chairman of the Faculty,</i> <i>1865-1873</i>	Benjamin Sloan <i>Acting President,</i> <i>1902-1903</i> <i>President, 1903-1908</i>	Thomas F. Jones <i>President, 1962-1974</i>
William C. Preston <i>President, 1845-1851</i>	Andrew C. Moore <i>Acting President,</i> <i>1908-1909</i> <i>Acting President,</i> <i>1913-1914</i>	William H. Patterson <i>President, 1974-1977</i>
Francis Lieber <i>President pro tem, 1851</i>	Samuel Chiles Mitchell <i>President, 1909-1913</i>	James B. Holderman <i>President, 1977-1990</i>
James H. Thornwell <i>President, 1851-1855</i>	William Spenser Currell <i>President, 1914-1922</i>	Arthur K. Smith <i>Interim President,</i> <i>1990-1991</i>
Charles F. McCay <i>President, 1855-1857</i>	William D. Melton <i>President, 1922-1926</i>	John M. Palms <i>President, 1991-2002</i>
Augustus B. Longstreet <i>President, 1857-1861</i>	Leonard T. Baker <i>Acting President, 1926</i> <i>President, 1931-1936</i> <i>Acting President,</i> <i>1944-1945</i>	Andrew A. Sorensen <i>President, 2002-2008</i>
Maximilian LaBorde <i>Chairman of the Faculty,</i> <i>1861-1865</i>		Harris Pastides <i>President, 2008-2019</i> <i>Interim President,</i> <i>2021-2022</i>
Benjamin B. Babbitt <i>Chairman of the Faculty,</i> <i>1873-1875</i>	Davison M. Douglas <i>President, 1927-1931</i>	Robert L. Caslen Jr. <i>President, 2019-2021</i>
Anson W. Cummings <i>Chairman of the Faculty,</i> <i>1875-1877</i>	J. Rion McKissick <i>President, 1936-1944</i>	Michael D. Amiridis <i>President, 2022-present</i>

