The Inauguration of
Dr. Christopher M. Fiorentino
Fifteenth President of
West Chester University
Friday, the Twenty-First of April
Two thousand and seventeen
Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall
Philips Memorial Building
West Chester University
West Chester, Pennsylvania
In January 2017, the Board of Governors of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education named Christopher M. Fiorentino as the 15th president of West Chester University. Dr. Fiorentino’s roots at the institution are broad and deep; he began teaching at WCU in 1983, while working on his doctoral degree in economics. Dr. Fiorentino started as an assistant professor and rose to become the dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs (now the College of Business and Public Management), a position he held for more than 20 years.

During his years as dean, Dr. Fiorentino was instrumental in developing both the University and community. He helped to secure AACSB accreditation for the School of Business; this accreditation is internationally recognized as the hallmark of excellence in business education, and has been earned by less than five percent of the world’s business schools. Dr. Fiorentino also was a driving force behind the development of the Graduate Center in West Goshen Township, and he worked with faculty and supporters to create the Cottrell Entrepreneurial Leadership Center.

In 2013, he became the vice president for External Operations and in April 2016 was chosen to serve as the University’s interim president.

As vice president for External Operations, Dr. Fiorentino helped the University fulfill its mission to serve local communities and the Commonwealth as a source of knowledge and skill development, a research center, and a service provider. His responsibilities included University operations at the State System’s Center City Philadelphia site. Under Dr. Fiorentino’s leadership, enrollment in WCU programs in Philadelphia increased more than 80 percent from 2014 to 2015. External Operations also encompasses distance education, which makes a West Chester University education available to traditional and nontraditional students throughout Pennsylvania as well as worldwide. There are currently more than 8,000 seats in distance education.

Dr. Fiorentino is married to WCU alumna and assistant professor Susan Fiorentino. The Fiorentinos have three children: Greg, Diana, and Jeff. The Fiorentinos are the proud grandparents of Clara and Caleb Fiorentino.
THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY

Processional

Crown Imperial ............................................................ William Walton
West Chester University Wind Ensemble Conducted by Andrew Yozviak

Flag Bearers ............................................................ West Chester University Army ROTC Cadets
Cameron Dewey
Charis Roberts
Justin Wright

Mace Bearer ......................................................... Dr. Corinne Murphy
Chair and Professor, Special Education

Grand Marshals ...................................................... Dr. Joby Hilliker
Associate Professor of Earth & Space Sciences
Dr. Sandra Mather ’64 M’68
Professor Emerita, Geology & Astronomy

Marshals ................................................................. Dr. Ola Kopacz
Associate Professor, Communications Studies
Mr. James Scythes
Instructor, History

National Anthem

The Star Spangled Banner ...................................... Francis Scott Key/Arr. Yozviak
Brenten Megee, soloist

Welcome ............................................................... Mr. Thomas Fillippo ’69
Chair, West Chester University Council of Trustees

Greetings

The Honorable Andrew Dinniman
Senator, Pennsylvania State Senate

The Honorable Carolyn Comitta ’74
Representative, Pennsylvania House of Representatives

The Honorable Michelle H. Kichline
Commissioner and Chair, Chester County Board of Commissioners
Recognition of the Delegates ................................................... Mr. Fillippo

Ms. Cynthia D. Shapira
Chair, Board of Governors, Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education

Ms. Montana I. Leaks
President, West Chester University Student Government Association

Dr. Margaret Ervin
Recording Secretary, West Chester University Chapter of APSCUF

Ms. Lisa M. Montgomery ’92 M’01
Representative, West Chester University Managers’ Community

Mr. Matthew M. Holliday ’09
Vice President, West Chester University Alumni Association

Mr. J. Adam Matlawski ’80
Vice Chair, West Chester University Council of Trustees

Musical Interlude

Chester............................................................William Schuman
West Chester University Wind Ensemble Conducted by Andrew Yozviak

Investiture of the President......................................Mr. Frank T. Brogan
Chancellor, Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education

Oath of Office ...........................................Ms. Shapira

Presentation of the Medallion..........................Mr. Fillippo and Dr. Mather

Presentation of the Mace ............................Mr. Fillippo and Dr. Murphy

Inaugural Address ......................................Dr. Christopher M. Fiorentino

Alma Mater ...............................................William Hauslein/Arr. Yozviak
Brenten Megee, soloist

Recessional

Sound the Bells ..................................................John Williams
West Chester University Wind Ensemble Conducted by Andrew Yozviak

Announcer ..................................................Dr. Philip A. Thompsen
Professor, Communication Studies

Following the Ceremony, please join Dr. and Mrs. Fiorentino for a reception on the Academic Quad.
Although its official founding year is 1871, West Chester University, in fact, has deeper roots tracing from West Chester Academy, a private, state-aided school that existed from 1812 to 1869. The academy enjoyed strong support from the Chester County Cabinet of the Natural Sciences of the pre-Civil War decades. It was recognized as one of Pennsylvania’s leading preparatory schools, and its experience in teacher training laid the groundwork for the normal school years that were to follow.

As the state began to take increasing responsibility for public education, the academy was transformed into West Chester Normal School, still privately owned but state certified. The normal school admitted its first class, consisting of 160 students, on September 25, 1871. In 1913, West Chester became the first of the normal schools to be owned outright by the Commonwealth.

West Chester became West Chester State Teachers College in 1927 when Pennsylvania initiated a four-year program of teacher education. In 1960, as the Commonwealth paved the way for liberal arts programs in its college system, West Chester was renamed West Chester State College, and two years later introduced the liberal arts program that turned the one-time academy into a comprehensive college.

In recognition of the historic merit of the campus, in 1981 the West Chester State College Quadrangle Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The buildings included in this historic district are Philips Memorial Building, Ruby Jones Hall, Recitation Hall, and the Old Library. Except for Philips, these buildings are all constructed of native Chester County serpentine stone.

West Chester State achieved another major milestone with passage of the State System of Higher Education bill. West Chester became one of the 14 universities in the State System of Higher Education on July 1, 1983. Along with its new name — West Chester University of Pennsylvania of the State System of Higher Education — the institution acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

West Chester University became a doctoral-degree granting institution in 2013 with the introduction of the Doctor of Nursing Practice; which was soon followed by a Doctor of Public Administration; a Doctor of Education in Policy, Planning, and Administration; and more recently, a Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology.
Serving more than 17,000 students at the undergraduate and graduate levels, West Chester University has earned a national reputation for excellence, value and student success. West Chester University is the largest state-owned university in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the premier state institution by such key measures as retention and graduation rates.

The University is a comprehensive public institution, offering 118 undergraduate programs, 103 master’s degree and four doctoral programs in more than 50 fields of study. West Chester University awarded twenty-three doctoral degrees on December 17, 2016 at Graduate Winter Commencement. These were the first doctoral degrees conferred in the history of the University.

In addition to the main campus in West Chester, the University offers programs through its graduate center, at the State System’s Philadelphia campus, and online. Five colleges and the graduate school comprise the University: Colleges of Arts and Humanities, Business and Public Management, Education and Social Work, Health Sciences, and Sciences and Mathematics, and School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies.

West Chester University is dedicated to meeting community needs and placing students on a lifelong path of active citizenship. The University strives to create a culture of service in which every member of the campus community steps outside their own needs and commitments and works for the greater good. During the 2015-16 academic year, West Chester students participated in more than 694,000 hours of public service through service-learning coursework. Co-curricular programs and events generated an additional 93,000-plus hours of public service.

Preparing students to be global citizens also is of critical importance. More than 500 West Chester University students took advantage of international learning experiences in the 2015-16 academic year. These included traditional study abroad programs, as well as participation in conferences, service learning, music performances, and more. In June 2016, the University launched an English-as-second-language program, which is expected to further increase international enrollment on the University’s own campus.

As a result of its academic quality, affordability and commitment to student success, WCU has been highly ranked in a variety of publications including U.S. News & World Report and Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazines. The University also is recognized as a community-engaged institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, a military friendly school by Victory Media, and a veteran-friendly university by U.S. News & World Report.

WCU is a member of the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll and maintains accreditations and recognition from more than 30 national and regional associations. These include the Middle State Commission on Higher Education, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, National Association of Schools of Music, and the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration.
DELEGATES

1742
Moravian College
Ms. Tracy Hill
Associate Director

1746
Princeton University
Mr. Richard Brown
Alumnus, President Princeton University Class of 1965

1773
Dickinson College
Mr. Kevin Holleran
Alumnus

1781
Washington & Jefferson College
Dr. Audra Robinson
Alumna

1808
Mount St. Mary’s University
Mr. Peter Arbes
President’s Council

1812
Lycoming College
Ms. Nancy Christy
Alumna

1821
Widener University
Ms. Julie Dietrich
Director of Government Relations

1826
Lafayette College
Dr. Jodie Frey
Associate Dean of Students

1832
Gettysburg College
Dr. Laurence Gregorio
Professor of French

1839
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
Dr. David Soltz
President

1842
Villanova University
Mrs. Colleen Meakim
Director, Simulation and Learning Resource Center — College of Nursing

1849
Waynesburg University
Mr. R. Cheston Woolard
Alumnus

1854
Lincoln University
Dr. Richard Green
Interim President

1855
Millersville University
Dr. John Anderson
President

1856
Seton Hall University
Ms. Melissa De Pretto Behan
Alumna

1857
Mansfield University of Pennsylvania
Brig. Gen. Francis Hendricks, USAF (ret.)
President

1863
La Salle University
Mr. Joseph Meade
Chief of Staff and Director of Government Affairs

1864
Swarthmore College
Mr. Joseph Gregorio
Director, Swarthmore College Chorus & Garnet Singers

1865
Lehigh University
Mr. Ferdinand Thun
Alumnus

1866
Kutztown University
Dr. Warren Hilton
VP Enrollment Management & Student Affairs
1866
Lebanon Valley College
Dr. Kathleen Tacelosky
Department Chair of Languages, Professor of Spanish

1869
Wilson College
Ms. Susan Smith
Alumna

1871
Shippensburg University
Dr. Barbara Lyman
Interim President

1875
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Dr. Timothy Moerland
Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs

1878
Duquesne University
Mrs. Kathleen Jarrett
Alumna

1884
Temple University
Mrs. Debbie Bagley
Alumna

1885
Bryn Mawr College
Ms. Phoebe Driscoll
Alumna

1893
East Stroudsburg University
Dr. Marcia Welsh
President

1893
Hood College
Ms. Mary Alice Peeling
Alumna

1898
Frostburg State University
Dr. David Ruth
Alumnus

1900
Carnegie Mellon University
Ms. Beth Kotarski
Director of University Health Services

1915
Marywood University
Mrs. Sandra Shemonsky
Alumna

1920
Immaculata University
Dr. Sally Winterton
Alumna

1921
Robert Morris University
Dr. Michelle Patrick
Dean, School of Business

1921
Rosemont College
Dr. Sharon Hirsh
President

1948
Gwynedd Mercy University
Dr. Carol Etlen
Assistant Professor, Program Director of Graduate Field Placement

1957
Cabrini University
Dr. Michelle Filling-Brown
Chair, Department of English, Associate Professor

1965
Neumann University
Mr. Scott Bogard
Executive Director of External Relations

2012
Respect Graduate School
Dr. Suleyman Eris
President
West Chester University Mace

The mace has a history as a symbol of authority in civil and academic processions. Now ceremonial, the mace was originally a formidable weapon held ready to protect the dignitary in a procession. The position of mace bearer for the University is given to a senior faculty member or one who is being honored by the Council of Trustees and/or the University’s senior administration. The mace bearer always precedes the president in the procession. The mace will be presented to the president during the installation ceremony.

The Chain of Office

Chains of office historically have been worn by many academic officials including chancellors, rectors, and presidents of universities. The West Chester University chain of office consists of twelve arched frames, each with one of the scenes representative of the academic disciplines used on the mace. The chain supports a medallion that carries the engraved seal of the University. During the Inauguration ceremony, the Chain of Office will be placed on the president’s shoulders.

Both the mace and the chain of office were designed and made by internationally known silversmith Kurt Matzdorf. They are gifts of the West Chester University Alumni Association.

Academic Regalia

Academic dress, like ecclesiastical garb, has its origins in the everyday clothing of the 13th and 14th centuries. During the 14th century, the English universities began to prescribe the details of scholars’ apparel, partly as a social matter to distinguish among various ranks and degrees of learning. During the 17th century popular clothing styles began to change rapidly, but academic apparel did not because it was, by this time, dictated by university statutes.

In the United States, as institutions of higher learning were established, beginning with Harvard in 1636, the universities followed the English precedent in which each developed its own version of academic dress. With the adoption of the Uniform Academic Costume Code in 1895, one can tell, by the style of the gown and the size and color of the hood, the wearer’s degree, as well as the institution that granted the degree.

The president wears a distinctive gown unique to the institution where they preside. The most unique feature of the presidential gown is the addition of the fourth chevron to each sleeve. This honor is granted only to one who holds the rank of president of an academic institution.

President Fiorentino’s robe is black with four purple chevrons on each sleeve. The navy velvet on his hood represents that he has a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree and the purple and gold silk colors distinguish West Chester University. There are two embroidered West Chester University seals on the front velvet panels.
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Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education

Frank T. Brogan, Chancellor

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*† Luther B. Sowers ’49

* Emeritus or Emerita
† Deceased
IN GRATITUDE

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Mary Beth Kurimay, Director, Conference Services
Margo McDonough, Writer/Researcher to the President
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Eleanor Walton, Digital Media Center Coordinator
Andrew Yozviak ’91, Associate Professor, Applied Music; Director of Bands

Presidential Inauguration Campus Food Drive Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:
Diana Fiorentino ’14, Registered Dietitian
Margo McDonough, Writer/Researcher to the President

Committee Members:
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Claudia Rose-Muir, Food Sourcing Manager, Chester County Food Bank
Jodi Roth-Saks, Director of Service-Learning and Volunteer Programs
Melissa Rudolph ’01, Social Media Marketing Specialist
Anne Shuniak, Marketing and Communications Coordinator,
  Chester County Food Bank

The Presidential Inauguration Planning Committee and the Presidential Inauguration Campus Food Drive Committee recognize the following individuals and organizations that have contributed time and resources to this historic event:

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ShopRite of West Chester, James Madanci, director of operations, and Jena Wood ’13, in-store dietitian
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