

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**Robyn Burlew** came to Veritas as the head of upper school in 2014, after serving in a classical and Christian school in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania for fifteen years. Mrs. Burlew's childhood in rural upstate New York laid the foundation for a love of the outdoors and the created world. She earned a bachelor's degree in biology at Houghton College and a master's degree in integrated curriculum and instruction from Covenant College. She is a member of the national council of the Alcuin Fellowship and serves in the Mid-Atlantic chapter. Mrs. Burlew has three grown daughters. In her free time, she enjoys the piano, hiking, and her golden retrievers.



**David Goodwin** has served as the president of the Association of Classical Christian Schools (ACCS) since 2015. Formerly, he was the head of the Ambrose School, a classical Christian school in Boise, ID, from 2003 through 2014. He served on the ACCS Board as an elected member from 2010 to 2014, and helped develop the strategic plan for the ACCS. Prior to his work in classical Christian education, Mr. Goodwin spent 13 years in marketing and new business development for a large computer products manufacturer. He holds an MBA and BIS from Boise State University. He and his wife, Stormy, work as a team on many ACCS projects and attend All Saints Presbyterian Church in Boise, Idaho. They are the parents of three children, one who attends New Saint Andrews College in Moscow, ID, and two who attend the Ambrose School.



**Phil Graybeal** is committed to *Transforming Christian School Leadership* worldwide. He served as a Christian school teacher for three years and head of school for 22 years while earning a doctorate in educational leadership. Since starting *Graybeal & Associates, LLC* in 2001, he has traveled widely both nationally and internationally as a full-time consultant to non-profit organizations. His objective is to help create organizational environments that will increase the likelihood of the right people doing the right things in the right way at the right time for the right reasons so that the right results will be achieved for the glory of God.



Dr. **R. Albert Mohler Jr.** serves as president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary—the flagship school of the Southern Baptist Convention and one of the largest seminaries in the world. Dr. Mohler also serves as the Joseph Emerson Brown Professor of Christian Theology at Southern Seminary. In addition to his presidential duties, Dr. Mohler hosts two programs: “The Briefing,” a daily analysis of news and events from a Christian worldview; and “Thinking in Public,” a series of conversations with the day's leading thinkers. He also writes a popular blog and a regular commentary on moral, cultural and theological issues. Dr. Mohler's mission is to address contemporary issues from a consistent and explicit Christian worldview. Dr. Mohler is a theologian and an ordained minister, having served as pastor and staff minister of several Southern Baptist churches. He came to the presidency of Southern Seminary from service as editor of *The Christian Index*, the oldest of the state papers serving the Southern Baptist Convention. A native of Lakeland, FL., Dr. Mohler was a faculty scholar at Florida Atlantic University before receiving his bachelor of arts degree from Samford

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University in Birmingham, Alabama. He holds a master of divinity degree and the doctor of philosophy (in systematic and historical theology) from Southern Seminary. He has pursued additional study at the St. Meinrad School of Theology and has done research at University of Oxford (England).

He is the author of several books, including *We Cannot Be Silent: Speaking Truth to a Culture Redefining Sex, Marriage, & the Very Meaning of Right and Wrong*; *The Conviction to Lead: 25 Principles for Leadership That Matters*; *Culture Shift: The Battle for the Moral Heart of America*; and *Words From the Fire: Hearing the Voice of God in the Ten Commandments*. He is currently editor-in-chief of *The Southern Baptist Journal of Theology*. A leader within the Southern Baptist Convention, he currently serves as chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention's Council of Seminary Presidents. Dr. Mohler serves on the boards of several organizations including World News Group, and previously served on the board of Focus on the Family. He is a member of the Council for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood and serves as a council member for the Gospel Coalition. In addition, he is a co-founder of Together for the Gospel. He is married to Mary, and they have two children. In 2015 Dr. and Mrs. Mohler welcomed their first grandchild and in 2018 their second grandchild.



**Keith Nix** has served as the head of school at Veritas since 2010. Mr. Nix serves as the vice chairman of the Association of Classical and Christian Schools (ACCS) and president of the Board of Academic Advisors for the Classic Learning Initiatives, and was the prior chairman of the Society for Classical Learning. He frequently consults with classical Christian school boards and leaders, and has served on the board of the Virginia Council for Private Education. Prior to moving to Veritas in 2010, Keith was a board member, and then later head of school at the Westminster School in Birmingham, Alabama from 2004–2010. He is a founding Arête Fellow and has facilitated the Arete Fellowship gatherings since 2009. Prior to working in classical Christian schools, Keith was president of Nixgroup, a boutique consulting firm working with start-up and early stage organizations and businesses. Mr. Nix plays tennis competitively, hopes to improve his golf game, and loves to read great books. He is married to Kim, an accomplished artist; the Nixes have two grown sons and a daughter in college.



**Davies Owens** is the head of vision and advancement at the Ambrose School in Boise, Idaho, where he also served as the dean of the upper school. Prior to moving West three years ago, he served for ten years as a board member, and later, as head of school of Heritage Preparatory in Atlanta, Georgia. Five years prior, he was the executive director of BlueSky Ministries, an innovation lab and consulting organization launched after he worked in the dot-com days for Christianity.com in Silicon Valley. He is also an ordained Presbyterian minister who served as a local church pastor for twelve years. Davies has a BA in sociology from Furman University, an MDiv from Duke Divinity School, and a doctorate from Gordon Conwell Seminary in Boston. He has studied on a number of occasions at L'Abri Fellowship in Switzerland and England. He and his wife, Holly, see the consistent fruit of classical Christian education in the lives of their three children: Hannah, Liam, and Bennett.

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**Dr. Dan Peterson** serves as the head of school at Regents School of Austin. Originally from Tennessee, his mother was a school teacher and his father, a biologist. Athletics, specifically soccer, played a huge role in his life from age five, through high school and college, and even afterward. He graduated from Carson-Newman University, working during the summers at Kanakuk Kamps in Missouri. Through Kanakuk, Dan broadened his spiritual understanding of how faith can be integrated in every aspect of a Christian's life and ignited his heart for discipleship. This was a life-changing concept that shaped his worldview, the idea of seeing all things through the truth of Scripture. It was also at Kanakuk that Dan met Brooke who became his wife in 2001. Dr. Peterson obtained a MDiv degree in theology from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He served for one year at Heritage Academy in Missouri. He then served for six years as founding head of school at Cornerstone Academy in Tennessee, while pursuing and earning his PhD in leadership and Christian education in 2012. He began his tenure at Regents School of Austin in 2012 serving as the head of school of logic until 2015. He served as the head of school and president of Evangelical Christian School in Tennessee from 2015 to 2018 before returning to Regents. Dr. Peterson has presented at several national and regional conferences, and he has completed the Colson Fellows National Program. Dr. and Mrs. Peterson are the parents of four children, all students at Regents. He enjoys reading, running, hiking, fly fishing, and playing soccer, but most of all, spending time with his family. The Peterson family attend Austin Stone Community Church.



**Jim Reynolds** and his wife, Nancy, moved to Richmond from Orlando in the summer of 2018. Previously, Jim was serving as the dean of faculty at the Geneva School, a Christian, classical school in Orlando, Florida. When Jim and Nancy first learned about Christian, classical education, they experienced it as a homecoming. Many years back, they had helped begin a Christian school with many of the ideals they now see bearing fruit in Christian classical schools. Jim has a BBA from the University of Michigan and an MA in education from Eastern Michigan University. Before working at the Geneva School, he was with Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt School Publishing for 19 years as an educational consultant, marketing manager, and vice president/editor-in-chief. Jim enjoys live music—both listening and playing, spending time with his family, and getting out in nature.



**Andrew Smith** has been a teacher and administrator in Christian classical schools since 2003. Prior to joining Veritas in 2017, he was director of upper school at the Geneva School, in Orlando, Florida, and before that, head of upper school at Westminster Academy, in Memphis, Tennessee. Andrew's academic work has focused primarily on rhetoric, and he is regularly involved in consulting and teacher training for various schools in the classical Christian renewal. He is a member of the national council of the Alcuin Fellowship and currently serves as the director of the Mid-Atlantic chapter. Andrew has a BA in history and an MA in philosophy from the University of Memphis, and an MDiv from Samford University. He and his wife, Keri, have four children.

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**Howe Whitman Jr.** is head of the Wilberforce School. He and his wife, Brenda, have four children, all of whom attend or have graduated from the Wilberforce School. They are also co-founders of the Wilberforce School. Howe worked in real estate development and investment for the JBG Companies in Washington, DC. Before his work in real estate, he served as executive assistant to Chuck Colson, the founder and chairman of Prison Fellowship Ministries. He holds a BA from the Woodrow

Wilson School of Princeton University and an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.