

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Jon Balsbaugh has over twenty years experience as a high school and junior high teacher and currently serves as the president of Trinity Schools, Inc., a national network of classically oriented Christian schools dedicated to providing an education that awakens students to the reality of the human condition and the world in which they live. Before taking over as president, he served as the headmaster of Trinity School at River Ridge in Eagan, MN. Mr. Balsbaugh received his master's degree in English from the University of St. Thomas, studying the theological aesthetics of Hans Urs von Balthasar. He has published on C.S. Lewis and is serving as the editor-in-chief of Veritas Journal, a new online journal of education and human awakening.



Jason Barney serves as the academic dean at Clapham School, a classical Christian school in Wheaton, IL. In 2012 he was awarded the Henry Salvatori Prize for Excellence in Teaching from Hillsdale College. He completed his MA in biblical exegesis at Wheaton College, where he received the Tenney Award in New Testament Studies. In addition to his administrative responsibilities in vision, philosophy and faculty training, Jason has taught courses in Latin, humanities, and senior thesis from 3rd–12th grades. He regularly speaks at events and conferences, including SCL, ACCS, and nearer home at Clapham School Curriculum Nights and Benefits. Recently he trained the lower school faculty of the Geneva School in Charlotte Mason's practice of narration in August 2019. Jason blogs regularly on ancient wisdom for the modern era at www.educationalrenaissance.com, where he has also made available a free eBook on implementing the practice of narration in the classical classroom.



Sindy Beckerle is a grant administrator who focuses her work in the fields of classical Christian education and crisis pregnancy centers. She has been writing grants for over 15 years. After homeschooling her two children for several years, her and a few friends began a homeschool coop called Grand County Home Educators in Colorado. The coop exploded in the small community and a desire for a Christian school was birthed. Through research and partnering with a local church who also had the desire to begin a Christian school, Sindy and her husband, Ed, with a group of excited parents and the local church began Winter Park Christian School. By the 2nd year of WPCS, they moved to the classical method with a strong biblical worldview. Sindy became the school office administrator at WPCS working closely with the head of school. The need for funding for the school is what drove Sindy to learn about fundraising and grant writing. She began taking coursework and researching grant writing through local and state resources. As her skills developed, her success with grant writing improved. Her passion is to help others learn how to seek funding through grant writing. She desires to share her knowledge learned over years to help make others path smoother and more profitable. Having written over \$1,000,000 in grants, she believes she uses the skills God has given her to put the request to the funder, but He gives all blessings. Currently living in the Hill Country of Texas, she loves exploring new places, traveling and she works full time in the field of grant writing and fundraising in both Colorado and Texas.

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Dr. Joel R. Beeke (PhD, Westminster Seminary) is president and professor of systematic theology and homiletics at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, a pastor of the Heritage Reformed Congregation in Grand Rapids, Michigan, editor of *Puritan Reformed Journal* and *Banner of Sovereign Grace Truth*, editorial director of Reformation Heritage Books, and a frequent speaker at Reformed conferences around the world. He has authored, co-authored, and edited more than two hundred books, and has contributed thousands of articles to Reformed books, journals, periodicals, and encyclopedias.



Bret Billman has been the head of school of Providence Preparatory School (a classical and collaborative school) since it opened in August of 2011. His wife Sarah teaches Kindergarten at Providence, and he has two children at the school. Bret received a BA and MA in English literature from Baylor University, and has taught various levels of secondary English, over the years. He loves the art of teaching, and considers it a great joy to lead a community of teachers, co-teaching parents, and students in the great pursuit of wisdom and virtue.



David Bryant has served as headmaster at Regents Academy in Nacogdoches, Texas, since 2010, where he also teaches senior-level humanities and rhetoric. He holds degrees from Troy University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and has taught in classical schools in Florida and Virginia. Classical Christian education has long been a family affair for the Bryants. Ashley, his wife of 27 years, teaches art and drama, and their four children have all received classical educations. Their youngest graduated from Regents in May. A native of Alabama, David enjoys reading, watching football, and hiking.



Rosaria Butterfield was once a tenured professor of English who identified as a lesbian and worked to advance the cause of LGBT equality. After her conversion to Christ in 1999, she came to see the sinfulness of having any identity apart from Him. Rosaria is married to Kent Butterfield, pastor of the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham, and is a home-school mother, pastor's wife, author, and speaker. She is helping Christians to better understand their LGBT neighbors and loved ones so that we can lovingly look past labels of sexual identity and share the gospel effectively. In 2012, she published her conversion memoir, *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert: An English Professor's Journey to Christian Faith*. Her second book is *Openness Unhindered: Further Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert on Sexual Identity and Union with Christ* (2015). Her third book, *The Gospel Comes with a House Key* (2018) addresses the lost art of Christian hospitality. Rosaria writes about sexuality, identity, Christian hospitality and community, and seeks to encourage all in faithful Christian living and service.

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Johnnie-Ann Campbell serves as the grammar school academic dean at Regents School of Charlottesville in Charlottesville, Virginia. She earned a bachelor of arts in English from the Baptist College of Florida. Additionally, Johnnie-Ann holds a master of education in curriculum and instruction with a concentration in Christian schools from Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Johnnie-Ann is a classical enthusiast and has been involved in classical education through teaching and administration for fifteen years. Johnnie-Ann is eager to share her love of learning and students with fellow teachers. In her free time, Johnnie-Ann can usually be found with a good book and her dog, Scout.



Yvette Cavender serves as the grammar school principal at Coram Deo Academy's Flower Mound campus. She has over 20 years of experience in education as a teacher and administrator and holds a state of Texas teaching certificate for early childhood through sixth grade. Having worked in various school models, she is a firm believer that a classical Christian approach to learning and teaching best serves educators and students. Yvette and her husband Kendall are proud parents of two grown children.



Kevin Clark, DLS, is the founder and president of The Ecclesial Schools Initiative, Inc. He believes his vocation as a Christian educator to be in service of the Church and the family as they seek to train children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. For Kevin, education is not simply a matter of academic preparation; it's about seeing Christ's Church flourish as a new generation of men and women bring the wisdom, beauty and justice of New Creation to bear for God's glory and the life of the world.

Kevin's Christian classical education experience spans 17 years, including 15 at the Geneva School, Winter Park, FL. During this time he taught broadly across the upper school—logic, classical guitar, Old and New Testament survey, New Testament Greek, rhetoric—though Christian philosophy and theology were his main interests and perennial areas of teaching. He later assumed a leadership position at the school, serving five years as academic dean of the Geneva School before leaving to found the Ecclesial Schools Initiative.

Also active at the national level, Kevin has ten years of leadership as a fellow for The Society for Classical Learning, providing academic leadership to Christian classical schools throughout the country by hosting retreats and speaking at conferences. He also joined the Templeton Honors College at Eastern University in 2018 as a teaching fellow in their new master of arts in classical teaching program.

Kevin earned a doctorate from Georgetown University that focused on liberal arts education and interdisciplinary practice, and he is the coauthor of the book *The Liberal Arts Tradition: A Philosophy of Christian Classical Education*.

Kevin and his wife, Taryn, have four children—Aubrey, Caedmon, Naomi, and Eleanor.

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Martin Cothran, the author of Memoria Press' *Traditional Logic*, *Material Logic* and *Classical Rhetoric* programs, is an instructor of Latin, logic, rhetoric, and classical studies at Highlands Latin School. Martin holds a BA in philosophy and economics from the University of California at Santa Barbara and an MA in Christian apologetics from the Simon Greenleaf School (now a part of Trinity University). He currently serves as senior policy analyst with the Family Foundation of Kentucky. His articles have appeared in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, and various other newspapers, as well as on radio and television. He has also served as a registered agent (or "lobbyist") at the Kentucky State Capitol for over 12 years and has served on various state committees that oversee education policy, where he continues to be an influential voice on education policy issues. Martin is the managing editor of *The Classical Teacher* magazine, which also serves as Memoria Press' product catalog. He and his family live in Danville, KY.



Dr. **Daniel B. Coupland** is a professor and chairman of the education department and dean of the faculty at Hillsdale College. He earned a BA in Spanish from Liberty University, an MA in linguistics from Oakland University, and a PhD in education from Michigan State University. He began his career in education as a high school teacher. At Hillsdale College, he teaches courses on English grammar and classic children's literature. In 2013, Dr. Coupland was named Hillsdale College's "Professor of the Year." In 2016, he was a resident scholar at the C. S. Lewis Study Centre (The Kilns) in Oxford, UK. In 2017, Dr. Coupland received the Emily Daugherty Award for Teaching Excellence. His research focuses on classic children's literature and English grammar instruction. He is a co-author of an English grammar curriculum titled *Well-Ordered Language: The Curious Child's Guide to Grammar* (published by Classical Academic Press).



Terri Covil is a third grade teacher at Cary Christian School. She holds a degree in religious studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has been married to her best friend, Patrick, for seventeen years, and they have two teenage children. Her favorite thing to do is travel the country in her Chrysler minivan, sleeping in the back, finding the best regional foods, and checking off states and national parks along the way. She also loves both baking and eating cake.



Brian Daigle is the headmaster at Sequitur Classical Academy in Baton Rouge, LA, director and professor at The Classical College, and owner and author at Mud House Art and Literature. Brian has a BS in industrial design from the school of architecture and design at University of Louisiana-Lafayette, and a masters of humanities from the University of Dallas. Doctoral studies include coursework at Louisiana State University in comparative literature. Brian is an ordained Anglican priest in the Anglican Church in North America and lives in Baton Rouge with his wife, Lauren, and their three children—Emery, Charlotte, and Benjamin.

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Dr. **Aaron Denlinger** holds degrees from Colorado Christian University (BA), Westminster Seminary California (MA), and the University of Aberdeen (PhD). He has fifteen years of experience teaching theology and Latin to students at every stage from secondary school to seminary. He currently serves as the dean of student culture at Arma Dei Academy, and moonlights as the assistant pastor of St. Patrick Presbyterian Church in Denver, Colorado.



Dr. **Timothy Dernlan** is passionate about advancing Christian community and culture through classical Christian education. He taught theater, math, rhetoric, physical education, personal finance, leadership, communication, and systematic theology before turning his focus to school leadership. Much of his early life was influenced by the sport of wrestling. He won All-American honors while at Purdue University, represented the United States as an athlete at the Pan American Championships, and competed in the 2000 and 2004 final Olympic Trials. He coached at Purdue, Ohio State, Penn State, Lehigh, and Ashland University and was named the NCAA Midwest Region Coach-of-the-Year in 2008. Dr. Dernlan has served as principal, headmaster, head of school, and superintendent of Christian school systems ranging in size from 200 to 1300 students. He currently serves as head of school at Bayshore Christian School in Fairhope, AL. Dernlan and his wife were married in 2000 and have four children.



Dr. **David Diener** holds a BA in philosophy and ancient languages from Wheaton College as well as an MA in philosophy, an MS in history and philosophy of education, and a dual PhD in philosophy and philosophy of education from Indiana University. In addition to working as a high-end custom trim carpenter for an Amish company and living as a missionary for three years in Bogotá, Colombia, he has taught at The Stony Brook School and Taylor University and has served as head of upper schools at Covenant Classical School in Fort Worth, TX, and head of school at Grace Academy in Georgetown, TX. He currently works at Hillsdale College where he is the headmaster of Hillsdale Academy and a lecturing professor of education. He also is an Alcuin Fellow, serves on the board of directors for the Society for Classical Learning and the board of academic advisors for the Classic Learning Test, and offers consulting services through Classical Academic Press. He is the author of *Plato: The Great Philosopher-Educator* and serves as the series editor for Classical Academic Press' series *Giants in the History of Education*. The Dieners have four wonderful children and are passionate about classical Christian education and the impact it can have on the church, our society, and the world.



Joel Dowers returned to his alma mater, The Oaks Classical Christian Academy, to teach high-school sciences four years ago. This was after spending a number of years at Marion Medical Center, working as a clinical exercise physiologist. He received an AA from New Saint Andrews college, a BS from the University of Idaho and an MS from California Polytechnic State University. He has been married to his beautiful wife, Mary, for 13 years and are excited that their three children get to attend the Oaks.

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Ty Fischer has been the head of school at Veritas Academy in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, since 1997. He received a BA in history from Grove City College and a master of divinity from Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi. He serves on the board of the Association of Classical Christian Schools. He has been involved in numerous curricular projects. Recently, he edited the book *Teaching Beauty: A Vision for Music & Art in Christian Education*. He was the managing editor of Veritas Press' Omnibus Project. He was a contributor to *Perspectives on Family Ministry* and *Perspectives on Your Child's Education* which were published in October 2009. Ty and his wife, Emily, are the parents of four daughters: Madelyn, Layne, Karis, and Elyse and the proud owners of one "periodically good" puggle, Roxy.



Kathy Foldesy is the upper-school director of curriculum and instruction at Westside Christian Academy in Westlake, Ohio and teaches in the upper-school mathematics and English departments. Before coming to WCA in 2000, she began her career in public schools teaching grades 4, 5, and 6, middle school mathematics, English as a Second Language and even pre-school. She also has extensive background leading youth ministry and is currently teaching marriage and parenting classes for her church.



Tom Garfield was the superintendent of Logos School from its opening in 1981 until 2016. He has a BFA degree in art and education, and a masters in education administration, both from the University of Idaho. Tom taught history, art, Bible, and directed drama productions at Logos School for over 35 years. He served as a founding board member of the Association of Classical and Christian Schools (ACCS) and spoke at ACCS conferences for 25 years. After retiring from Logos School in 2017, Tom opened Heritage Arts Academy in Moscow, Idaho. Today he serves as the dean of academics for Veritas Scholars Academy and teaches two art classes for VSA. He and his wife Julie have four children and eleven grandchildren.



Kelly Gardner serves as lead teacher at Cary Christian School where she teaches fourth grade. She graduated from East Carolina University with a degree in elementary education. Teaching has been her passion for over fifteen years, and she especially enjoys teaching Latin and grammar. Kelly has found joy in ministering to women in prison. She enjoys traveling and marveling at God's creation.

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David Goodwin has served as the full-time 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.



George Grant has started a lot of things and somehow or another he has even managed to finish a few of them. Currently, he is the pastor of Parish Presbyterian Church in Franklin, Tennessee, where he also serves as the director of the King's Meadow Study Center and teaches at the Franklin Classical School. He has planted four churches, established a fistful of schools and co-ops along with two colleges, accumulated a bottom drawer full of academic degrees, and is the author of enough out-of-print books to keep half the garage sales in the South fully stocked. But, by his own testimony, his greatest accomplishment is his ongoing role as husband of one, father of three, and grandfather of six (and counting).



Chris Hall earned a BA in philosophy from Gettysburg College and an MAT in elementary education from Towson University. He has served as a lower-school academic dean and a PS-8 science department chair, in addition to teaching math, science, physical education, and guitar, primarily in the middle grades, for 24 years. In 2017, he founded Always Learning Education, a consulting firm specializing in teacher training and curriculum design. Complementary to his academic pursuits, he is an avid outdoorsman, musician, craftsman, and farmer. He and his wife homeschool their three sons on a wooded homestead in central Virginia.



Matt Hopkins is one of the founders and the accidental head of school at Augustine Classical Academy. ACA is now in its 11th year, having started with nine 8th–10th graders in year one. He is a self-confessed scholastic athletics junkie, and ran a three sport athletic program at ACA for those first nine students in year one. There has not been a year of his adult life when he was not coaching in a scholastic context and most of that time has been spent coaching rowing. ACA rowers broke out onto the national scene with medals at the scholastic nationals four years ago and have not slowed down since. Last year, drawing from a pool of 32 upper-school students, ACA qualified 14 athletes in five events to the Scholastic National Rowing Championships where they brought home gold in two events, a bronze, a fourth, and a 12th. He has either coached or competed in baseball, running, soccer, basketball, squash, and rowing. He is the father of nine and the husband of one.

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Ravi Jain graduated from Davidson College in North Carolina with a bachelor's degree in political science, a near minor in classics, and a keen interest in physics, ancient Greek, and international political economy. He worked at various churches, received a master's from Reformed Theological Seminary, and later earned a graduate certificate in mathematics from the University of Central Florida.

Ravi began teaching calculus and physics at the Geneva School of Orlando in 2003 where he has developed an integrated double-period class called the Scientific Revolution. In this class, students read primary sources such as Galileo and Newton in order to recapitulate the narrative of discovery while preserving the mathematical and scientific rigor expected of a college level class. During his tenure at Geneva, Ravi co-authored the book *The Liberal Arts Tradition: A Philosophy of Christian Classical Education*. He has given over a hundred talks and workshops throughout the country and overseas on topics related to education, mathematics, and science.

Ravi enjoys reading, being outdoors, and traveling abroad. He spends most of his free hours with his wife Kelley and their two sons, Judah and Xavier.



Ralph Janikowsky is the headmaster at Westminster Academy in Memphis, TN, an ACCS accredited school with over 400 students. He graduated from the US Naval Academy with honors and has a masters degree from the National War College. Prior to arriving in Memphis, Ralph served as the upper school principal at Rockbridge Academy after a career in the US Navy as Surface Warfare Office that included command tours of a destroyer, USS HEWITT (DD 966) in Yokosuka, Japan and a cruiser, USS PRINCETON (CG 59) in San Diego. Ralph served as a ruling elder at the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Bowie in Maryland for nearly 20 years before moving to Memphis and is currently an elder at Independent Presbyterian Church in Memphis. He has taught Sunday school to middle school students and coached middle-school boys' basketball. Ralph and his wife Linda have two daughters, Leslie, who is Reformed University Fellowship staff at Rhodes College in Memphis, and Kristen, who is a civil engineer in Memphis, both graduates of Rockbridge Academy.



Maylon Jones received her MA in mathematics from Saint Louis University in 1996 and has been teaching mathematics ever since. In the past 24 years she has taught courses in mathematics from the 7th grade to college-level. She is just completing her tenth year at Westminster Academy in Memphis where she has regularly taught preAlgebra, precalculus and calculus. She has four children (ages 12–23) who have all attended WA. In her spare time, she often enjoys reading about, listening to podcasts, or watching videos on mathematics.



At the moment of writing, **Andrew Kern** has seven grand-children. More trivially, having founded the CiRCE Institute after co-authoring *Classical Education: The Movement Sweeping America* (with Dr. Gene Edward Veith), he has been compelled to serve as its president. Andrew also bears primary culpability for *The Lost Tools of Writing*, a classical rhetoric and writing resource. Since establishing CiRCE to serve classical educators through research and consulting while developing and providing

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integrated resources, Andrew has trained and apprenticed innumerable home and school teachers, heads of school, and school boards. He has also defined, defended, practiced, and supported classical education at many conferences, conventions, and book retreats. Andrew helped start Providence Academy in Green Bay, WI in 1993, Foundations Academy (now Ambrose School) in Boise, ID in 1996, The Great Ideas Academy in Charlotte, North Carolina in 2001, and Regents School of the Carolinas in 2006, and the CiRCE Apprenticeship around the same time. He and his wife, Karen, live in North Carolina, and their five more or less classically educated and more or less home educated children and ever more grandchildren live in various places, ranging from Uganda to Georgia, depending on when you ask.



Catherine Kochie received her bachelor of music education from Stetson University in Deland, Florida. She subsequently studied choral conducting and music pedagogy at the Kodály Institute in Kecskemét, Hungary. Catherine has experience both as a K–8 music teacher and chapel coordinator. She currently teaches logic school music at Arma Dei Classical Academy in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. She is an accomplished cellist and pianist.



Michael Kochie holds degrees from Reformation Bible College (bachelor of biblical and theological studies) and Reformed Theological Seminary (master of biblical studies). He has a background in youth ministry. He currently teaches Latin and bible in the logic school at Arma Dei Academy in Highlands Ranch, Colorado.



Sam Koenen has worked at Petra Academy since 2000 as teacher, academic dean, and secondary dean. He currently teaches medieval humanities to eleventh graders and serves as interim head of school. His favorite book is *The Wind in the Willows*.



Bryan Lynch is headmaster (since 2002) of Veritas School, a PreK–12 classical and Christian school in Newberg, Oregon. Bryan was a founding board member of Veritas, and has been in private and public education for over 30 years. In addition to his administrative duties, Bryan teaches rhetoric and humane letters to eleventh grade students. Bryan has presented workshops on faculty development, formative assessment, and seminar discussions at Association of Classical and Christian Schools and Society for Classical Learning conferences, led many school-based teacher trainings, and has led numerous regional teaching conferences at Veritas. Bryan posts frequently on teaching and classical education at classicalteaching.com.

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Lysa Lytikainen has worked at Rockbridge Academy for 10 years and is currently the lead kindergarten teacher. She has also worked with the school's musicals in various capacities throughout the years. Lysa received her BA from Columbia International University in biblical languages and bible. She was a missionary for three years and has spoken in settings such as conferences for MOPS International, teacher training seminars, womens' groups, missions trips, and youth retreats. Lysa and her husband, Erik, have four children, ranging in age from 17 to 23. Thanks to Jonny, Kate, David, and Luke, the Lytikainen's life is often loud, but never boring.



Dr. **Louis Markos** holds a BA in English and history from Colgate University and an MA and PhD in English from the University of Michigan. He is a professor of English and scholar in residence at Houston Baptist University, where he teaches courses on British Romantic and Victorian Poetry and Prose, the Classics, C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien, and Art and Film. Dr. Markos holds the Robert H. Ray Chair in Humanities and lectures on ancient Greece and Rome, the early church and Middle Ages, the Renaissance and romanticism for HBU's Honors College. He is the author of eighteen books, including *From Achilles to Christ*, *On the Shoulders of Hobbits*, *Literature: A Student's Guide*, *CSL: An Apologist for Education*, three Canon Press *Worldview Guides to the Iliad, Odyssey, and Aeneid*, & two children's novels, *The Dreaming Stone* and *In the Shadow of Troy*, in which his kids become part of Greek mythology and the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*. His son Alex teaches Latin at the Geneva School in Boerne, TX.



Dr. **Alan Marshall** currently serves as the president of Coram Deo Academy, comprised of three campuses located in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. Dr. Marshall graduated from the United States Air Force Academy with honors and a double majoring in aeronautical engineering and mathematics. He then went on to pilot training in Phoenix, Arizona, and was selected as a first assignment instructor pilot. After various flying assignments, he eventually became a U-2 pilot and served as the squadron commander of a U-2 combat flying squadron supporting operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Horn of Africa. Dr. Marshall completed his 27-year military career as the director of safety for Air Combat Command responsible for aircraft mishap safety investigation for combat aircraft in the U.S. Air Force. Dr. Marshall holds a master's degree in applied mathematics from the University of Washington and a master's degree in aeronautical sciences from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He also holds a PhD in organization leadership from Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Dr. Marshall has been married to Mrs. Kendra Marshall for 29 years. They have two sons, Joshua and Nolan, who attend Coram Deo Academy.



Katy McKinney was born and raised in Knoxville, Tennessee. After graduating with a bachelor of science in early childhood/elementary education from Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, she married her best friend and high school sweetheart, Mark McKinney. Together, they are raising their four active and wonderful children ages 14, 13, 10 & 9. Katy has taught school for a total of 14 years in a variety of settings from Christian schools to public school English language learners. She homeschooled her own children for six years and is in her fifth-year teaching in the classical school

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setting at Paideia Academy, where she has taught kindergarten and first grades. Katy has a passion for teaching the Bible and longs to bring it to life for her students so they may know the love of Jesus richly and deeply and see how He is the central theme throughout all of scripture.



Diana Meadowcroft serves as the upper-school academic director at Cedar Tree Classical Christian School in Ridgefield, Washington, where she has served in various capacities since its inception 21 years ago. She has taught grammar grades as well as humanities in the logic and rhetoric stages, and oversees teachers. She earned a BA in communications and holds an MA in Christian education from Western Seminary where she met her husband Bill. Together they have seen God use faithful people

to build and nurture their classical Christian school and lay a great foundation for their three adult children.



Marie Minniear holds a BS in geology from the University of Toledo and has been teaching physical science and chemistry at Toledo Christian Schools since 2005. Toledo Christian began transitioning to a classical model in 2015; Ms. Minniear has served on the junior high/high school curriculum committee—responsible for guiding the transition in the high school—since its inception in 2016. Her mission is to help students cultivate a robust, transformational faith in Jesus the Christ, to help build

men and women who are steadfast in Godly character, and to help develop strong, resilient minds.



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. 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 (www.AlbertMohler.com) 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 University in Birmingham, AL. 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).

Dr. Mohler also serves as the Joseph Emerson Brown Professor of Christian Theology at Southern Seminary. His writings have been published throughout the United States and Europe. In addition to contributing to a number of collected volumes, he is the author of several books, including *Culture Shift: Engaging Current Issues with Timeless Truth*; *Desire & Deceit: The Real Cost of the New Sexual Tolerance*; *Atheism Remix: A Christian Confronts the New Atheists*; *He Is Not Silent: Preaching in a Postmodern World*; *The Disappearance of God: Dangerous Beliefs in the New Spiritual Openness*; and

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Words From the Fire: Hearing the Voice of God in the Ten Commandments. From 1985 to 1993, he served as associate editor of *Preaching*, a journal for evangelical preachers, and is currently editor-in-chief of the *Southern Baptist Journal of Theology*.

Dr. Mohler serves on the boards of several organizations including 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. He is married to Mary, and they have two children, Katie and Christopher.



Karen Moore has filled both teaching and administrative roles at Grace Academy of Georgetown, a classical Christian school in central Texas, where she has built the 3–12th grade classical language program and also serves as the director of the Senior Tour of Italy. She has 20 years of experience teaching Latin, Greek, and ancient humanities in classical Christian schools. She is the author of multiple books on Latin stories for all levels of learning including the *Libellus de Historia* series and the *Latin*

Alive Reader: Latin Literature from Cicero to Newton, all published through Classical Academic Press. Her tutorials in Latin instruction are now available online through ClassicalU. She and her husband Bryan are the proud parents of three Grace Academy graduates.



Since 2014, **David Nees** has served as the head of school at Heritage Classical Academy, which is located in the greater Cleveland, Ohio area. He is husband to Kate and father of four. When not working, David is talking to Kate, doing homework or playing with his kids, reading a book, or thinking about the work he should be doing.



With a MA in Humanities from Faulkner University's Great Books program, **Christine Norvell** has taught high school English in public, classical, and homeschool worlds for sixteen years, most recently for Regent Preparatory for the last eleven. She now joins Kepler Education, an online classical education community, to teach world and American literature courses beginning in August 2020. Christine is a senior contributor at *The Imaginative Conservative* and author of *Till We Have Faces: A Reading*

Companion (2017). She also writes regularly for literary and classical websites and is wife to John and mother to three boys and the family cat Pippin in Tulsa, Oklahoma.



Amanda Patchin is an instructor at the Ambrose School, where she teaches medieval history, literature, and philosophy to high school juniors. She is in her seventh year as a classical educator and has taught both at the grammar and rhetoric level. For the last five years she has traveled each summer to Rwanda to teach classical Christian educational principles to Rwandan teachers at a rural school. She reads a bit more than average and loves nothing more than conversation about a good book. Her love of the written word occasionally produces a poem or an article and her love of food

often produces dinner.

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Christopher Perrin, MDiv, PhD, is the CEO with Classical Academic Press, and a national leader, author, and speaker for the renewal of classical education. He is the author of *An Introduction to Classical Education: A Guide for Parents*, *Greek for Children Primer A*, and co-author of the *Latin for Children* series. He serves as a consultant to classical Christian schools, schools converting to the classical model, and homeschool co-ops. He is the director of the Alcuin Fellowship, former co-chair of the Society for Classical Learning, and an adjunct professor with the honor's program at Messiah College, Chris previously served for ten years as a headmaster of a classical Christian school in Harrisburg, PA.



Wendy Phillips has been teaching children for almost thirty-five years in both the homeschool setting and in the classical classroom. She has taught grammar classes at Trinitas Christian School in Pensacola, Florida, since 2005, and over the years has been the lead teacher for the grammar school and mentor to new teachers. She is called upon frequently to present teacher training modules for Trinitas and other local classical schools. She loves playing the piano and uses this gift to instill in her third-graders a love for singing.



Kristina Pierce joined Providence Classical School's faculty in 2011 and has taught in both the three-day and five-day kindergarten programs. She has degrees from Louisiana State University and Dallas Theological Seminary. She is certified in early childhood, special education (birth to 21) and grammar K-5. Kristina has taught the early years and primary grades in many parts of the world including Louisiana, Tennessee, Texas, Singapore, Ireland, Scotland, and England. She is passionate about the younger years and the opportunities that are available both classically and spiritually for this age group. Whether she is teaching her junior high Sunday school class or serving as a children's supervisor in Bible Study Fellowship, she encourages the current generation of millennials to rethink their parenting techniques and philosophies, as they consider what it means to love truth, beauty, and goodness.



Professor **Carol Reynolds** is a uniquely talented and much sought-after public speaker for arts venues and general audiences. She combines her insights on music history, arts, and culture with her passion for arts education to create programs and curricula, inspire concert audiences, and lead arts tours. Never dull or superficial, Carol brings to her audiences a unique mix of humor, substance, and skilled piano performance to make the arts more accessible and meaningful to all. Carol has led arts tours to Russia, Poland, Austria, Germany, Hungary, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Slovakia, San Francisco, and Broadway on behalf of several arts organizations and has recently teamed with Smithsonian Journeys for cruises to the Holy Land, Mediterranean, Caribbean, Baltic Sea, Indian Ocean, and across the Atlantic. For more than 20 years, Carol was associate professor of music history at the Meadows School of the Arts, Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. She now makes her home in North Carolina and maintains a second residence in Weimar, Germany—the home of Goethe, Schiller, Bach, and Liszt, and the focal point of much of Europe's artistic heritage.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Jarrod Richey has been teaching in the same classical Christian school in Monroe/West Monroe, LA since 2008: Geneva Academy.



Tracy Robinson has served as the head of school for Hickory Christian Academy in Hickory, NC since 2001. He is married to Gayle, and is the father of six children, Kristen, Sydney, Amy, Sam, Julia, and Levi. Outside of family and HCA, his greatest joy in life is mission work and serving the “least of these” around the world and around the corner. He is a graduate of Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina.



Michael Sabo entered his first year at Covenant Christian School in 2017 in Panama City, Florida. In October 2018, a category 5 hurricane hit the Panama City area and greatly impacted Covenant as well as the community at large. Mr. Sabo was previously at Providence Classical Christian School in Oxford, Georgia. In 2011, Mr. Sabo served as the International School Coordinator in Dukem, Ethiopia. He and his wife, Christina, have been married for 20 years and have four children—Izabella-12th, Jack-7th, Caleb-4th and Gigi-preschool. As a family, they enjoy the outdoors and the beautiful Florida beaches.



Sandy Schinetsky just finished her third year teaching at Regents School of Austin and her 10th year of teaching overall. She earned both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Louisiana State University and taught in Louisiana public schools before moving to Texas. She currently teaches algebra I, geometry, and pre-calculus; however, in the past she has taught sixth grade, seventh grade, and eighth grade math. She was named Teacher of the Year in 2011 at her school in Louisiana and was a finalist for District Teacher of the Year. Although she loved teaching students in Louisiana, she chose to move to Ann Arbor Michigan to work in the athletic department at the University of Michigan as their tutor coordinator for student-athletes. When she became pregnant, she and her husband decided to move to Texas to be closer to family, and that is when she discovered and fell in love with the classical Christian community through Regents School of Austin. After teaching in a classical Christian school, she knows she will never be able to teach in any other environment, and she thanks God daily for the opportunity to discuss her Christian faith with her students in the mathematics classroom.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Christopher Schlect, PhD, has worked in classical and Christian education for over 25 years. As fellow of history at New Saint Andrews College, he teaches courses in ancient and medieval civilizations, U.S. history, American Christianity, medieval education, and classical rhetoric, among other subjects. He has also taught introductory and advanced courses in U.S. history and ancient Rome at Washington State University. He is the director of New Saint Andrews College's graduate program in classical and Christian studies. He taught history and Bible at Logos School in Moscow, Idaho, for many years, and he serves classical and Christian schools around the country through his consulting and teacher training activities. His published writings appear in various school curricula and other outlets. Schlect's research in twentieth-century Protestant church life has earned numerous competitive grants and fellowships, and he has presented his research at meetings of the American Historical Association, the American Society of Church History, the American Academy of Religion, and the Idaho Council for History Education. He was recently named the 2016–17 Distinguished Lecturer for the Association of Reformed Colleges and Universities. His historical work includes service as a ranger for the U.S. National Park Service, where he specialized in Protestant missions to the Nez Perce people and interpreted historical sites and material culture for the public. Schlect is a teaching elder at Trinity Reformed Church (CREC) in Moscow, Idaho. He and his wife, Brenda, have five children, all products of a classical and Christian education. They also have four grandchildren.



Dale Siegenthaler is assistant professor of mathematics at Cairn University near Philadelphia, PA. He holds a BS in Bible and a BS in mathematics education from Cairn University and a MA in mathematics from West Chester University. Prior to teaching at Cairn, Dale taught mathematics at Veritas Academy in Leola, PA for 13 years.



Kourtney Sladek is a third grade teacher and the grammar school director of curriculum and instruction at Westside Christian Academy in Westlake, Ohio. She holds an additional license as a K–12 reading specialist. She enjoys ministering to International College Students and has a heart for reaching teachers through international missions work. When she is not teaching or volunteering she is an avid martial artist and loves hiking with her family.



After teaching in classical school, college, and homeschool settings in Chicago, **Joshua Smith** joined Veritas School (Newberg, Oregon) in 2004. Since then he has taught Latin, Greek, and humane letters continuously; along the way he also taught theology for ten years, conducted a number of summer courses in logic and in Latin, and directed a number of drama productions, first as an assistant and now as head director. Outside the usual school routine, he has helped to lead an educational trip to Italy and Greece, studied in Italy with the National Endowment for the Humanities, presented at local and national teaching conferences, and guest taught in the honors program at nearby George Fox University.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



After completing a BA at Grove City College and a MDiv at Westminster Theological Seminary, **Andy Stapleton** joined the staff of Mars Hill Academy in Mason/Cincinnati, Ohio. Over the past ten years, he has taught literature, humanities, logic, rhetoric, Greek, and Bible in the upper school, in addition to leading the Worldview Summit and Varsity Soccer programs.



Kevin Thames is the director of academics and a grammar stage teacher at the Classical School of Wichita. He has over 20 years of experience in education in K-8 and K-12 schools as a teacher and an administrator. He and his wife, Susan, have 3 children who attend Classical School of Wichita.



Stephen Richard Turley (PhD, Durham University) is a theologian, social theorist, classical Christian educator, and prize-winning classical guitarist. He is the author of *The Ritualised Revelation of the Messianic Age: Washings and Meals in Galatians and 1 Corinthians*, and *Awakening Wonder: A Classical Guide to Truth, Goodness, and Beauty*. Steve blogs on the church, society and culture, education, and the arts at TurleyTalks.com. He is a faculty member at Tall Oaks Classical School in Bear, DE, where he teaches theology, Greek, and rhetoric, and is a professor of fine arts at Eastern University. Steve lectures at universities, conferences, and churches throughout the U.S. and abroad. His research and writings have appeared in such journals as *Christianity and Literature*, *Calvin Theological Journal*, *First Things*, *Touchstone*, and the *Chesterton Review*. He and his wife, Akiko, have four children and live in Bear, DE, where they together enjoy fishing, gardening, and watching Duck Dynasty marathons.



Brooke Voelp has been a classroom teacher for eighteen years. Eleven of those years were spent teaching at Rockbridge Academy where she is currently in her fourth year serving as the grammar school vice principal. Brooke has previously spoken at the national ACCS conference on the “Grammar of History” and “Teaching Reading Effectively.” She is also an annual speaker at Rockbridge Academy’s Summer Teacher Training. Brooke holds a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from the University of Maryland and a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction from Loyola University. Brooke has been married to her husband Bill for 28 years, and they have two children, both graduates of Rockbridge Academy—Corrine and Jacob. Brooke loves Jesus, her family, and baseball. More importantly, she loves being a new grandma.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



James D. Waldy, EdS, is a lifelong educator who has been involved in classical education for 34 years. He graduated from Bob Jones University with a degree in elementary education and went on to complete master's and educational specialist degrees from BJU in educational administration. He has taught at every K–12 grade level and has served as either dean of faculty or principal in 25 of his 37 years in education. Happily married to his wife, Tami, and the father of five wonderful children and six grandchildren, James serves at Mars Hill Academy in Mason, Ohio, as the grammar school principal, dean of faculty, and astronomy teacher.



Dr. **Brian A. Williams** is dean of the Templeton Honors College and assistant professor of ethics & liberal studies. Before coming to Eastern, he was lecturer in theology and Christian ethics at the University of Oxford and director of Oxford Conversations, a collection of curated video interviews with leading Christian academics and scholars at Oxford. He holds an MPhil and DPhil in Christian ethics from the University of Oxford (UK), where he was a Clarendon Scholar; an MA and ThM in systematic and historical theology from Regent College (Vancouver, Canada); and a BA in biblical studies from Ozark Christian College (Joplin, MO). His current research examines the tradition of didascalical Christian humanism, focusing on the works of Hugh of St. Victor, Philip Melancthon, and John Henry Newman. Dr. Williams' broader academic interests include virtue ethics, Christian and Muslim political thought, Karl Barth's theology and politics, classical education, and Dante Alighieri's *Commedia*. He is the author of *The Potter's Rib: The History, Theology, and Practice of Mentoring for Pastoral Formation* (Regent College Publishing) and co-editor of *Everyday Ethics: Moral Theology and the Practices of Ordinary Life* (Georgetown University Press). Dr. Williams has also taught theology, philosophy, and literature at Cair Paravel Latin School (Topeka, KS); was theologian-in-residence at First Presbyterian Church PCUSA (Topeka, KS); led Quo Vadis Travel Seminars to destinations throughout Europe; was the distance education instructor in theology for Regent College (Vancouver); and has experience in several fields of business. He is currently an Alcuin fellow and a research fellow with the Institute of Classical Education. He is married to Kim Williams and has three children: Ilia, Brecon, and Maeve.



Douglas Wilson is the minister of Christ Church in Moscow, Idaho. He is a founding board member of both Logos School and New Saint Andrews College, and serves as an instructor at Greyfriars Hall, a ministerial training program at Christ Church. He is the author of numerous books on classical Christian education, the family, and the Reformed faith.



Christie Wright serves as the assistant head of school and academic dean at Highland Rim Academy in Cookeville, TN. She was instrumental in the founding of the school in 2007 and has spent most of her instructional time in the humanities and rhetoric classes. She earned a BA in English literature at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and an MA in curriculum and instruction from Tennessee Technological University. She enjoys her country home with her husband of eighteen years and four children, ages 4–11.