

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Ellen Battles joined the faculty of Trinity Christian School in Opelika, Alabama, in 2014 as the first grade teacher. Trinity holds a special place in her heart as she and her husband are both former students of the school. Ellen is enthusiastic and passionate about classical Christian education. She adores children and instills a love for learning in her students. She holds a degree in early childhood education from Auburn University. She and her husband, Matthew, have two children, Maxwell and Ella Kate, who both attend Trinity.



Dr. E. Calvin Beisner, an interdisciplinary scholar specializing in the application of biblical worldview, theology, and ethics to economics, environmental stewardship, political philosophy, public policy, and apologetics, is founder and National Spokesman of the Cornwall Alliance for the Stewardship of Creation. He was associate professor of historical theology and social ethics at Knox Theological Seminary (2000–2008) and of interdisciplinary studies at Covenant College (1992–2000).



Chris Browne works at the Ambrose School, in Boise, ID, having served as both a teacher and as an administrator. His academic passions are for the late Roman Empire and all things Tolkien. He is happily married to his soul mate, has two beautiful daughters who are both being classically educated, and in his free time he has three passions: his summer job as a whitewater rafting guide in the majestic Hells Canyon portion of the Snake River, his freshly restored vintage Mustang, and converting Tolkien stories into stage plays.



Amber Burgin serves as the grammar school co-administrator and fifth and sixth grade Latin teacher at Regent Preparatory School of Oklahoma. She holds an MAT in elementary education from the University of South Carolina, and an MA in biblical studies from Reformed Theological Seminary. Amber's journey with classical Christian education began through her mother's influence as a homeschooling educator. As a teacher-turned-administrator, Amber continues to learn the power of family and school co-laboring.



Joshua Butcher joined the faculty at Trinitas Christian School in 2010 and has developed and taught all three of Trinitas' rhetoric courses as well as collaborated to develop the school's senior thesis project. When he can find a willing counterpart he enjoys discussing Plato and rhetorical exercises; and reciting speeches from Shakespeare's plays. In addition to teaching and preparing for classes, Joshua spends most of his time alongside his wife, Hannah, raising their five children (four boys ages 12, 11, 8, 5, and one girl who is 2).

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Wade Butin, a native Houstonian, received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Rice University in horn performance. After college, he moved to Hawaii to play horn with the Honolulu Symphony, where he met and married his wife, Laurilyn. Wade, Laurilyn, and only son, Andrew, returned home in 2009 to play horn with the Houston Symphony. A few years later, he joined the faculty as the HR Director for Providence Classical School. Wade's position changed at PCS from an administrative position to one of instruction. His current position is to teach grammar school music and lead several performance-based groups including a handbell choir and a recorder ensemble. Wade is very excited to be given the opportunity to teach music to the students at Providence Classical School. His goal is to captivate the students and show them how they can honor and praise God in worship by learning the language of music and its history.



Bill Carey has been involved in the life of Ad Fontes Academy since he was in high school. He assisted his father at the weekly Latin Club and took Ad Fontes students to many certamina and conventions. At the University of Virginia he studied the classics focusing on Latin. Fresh from college, he joined the Ad Fontes faculty where he taught Latin, calculus, formal logic, physics, and (for a few months) senior thesis. After five years of teaching, Mr. Carey took a sabbatical writing computer programs for a defense contractor to better understand how adults think about and use mathematics. Drawn back to the classroom, Bill is in his fourth year of his second tour at Ad Fontes and second year as dean of instruction. He is joyfully married to Maren Carey, also a teacher and attends Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Haymarket, Virginia.



Keith Castello has served at Covenant Christian Academy in Colleyville, Texas, for 20 years. CCA was founded as a ministry of Colleyville Presbyterian Church PCA and an Abeka school. CCA has made two major transitions over the last 25 years: becoming an independent non-denominational Christian school and transitioning to a distinctively classical approach to education. As headmaster of CCA for the last 15 years, Keith led efforts to maintain a great relationship with CCA's parent church while expanding their draw from the surrounding evangelical community. He also led the charge in converting to the PK-12 classical curriculum. Keith's passion for the classical Christian school movement combined with a natural ability to inspire families toward this form of education has helped CCA grow enrollment from 374 to 735. Keith has also had success building unique systems that have drawn in a great faculty and developed CCA's beautiful campus. Keith is currently pursuing a PhD in educational leadership at Liberty University. He has a master of humanities degree from the University of Dallas and has studied theology and Christian education at both Dallas Theological Seminary and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.



Thomas Caucutt has not worked since 2004. He and his wife Gabrielle raise 6 sons, several chickens, and many interesting questions. Instead of working for a living, Thomas has done what he loves at Evangel Classical Christian School in Alabama for the past 14 years: instructing students in Latin and teachers in classical Christian education.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Leslie Collins and her husband, Dave, have been working in classical and Christian education since 1995. Leslie was the founding headmistress of Rockbridge Academy in Millersville, Maryland, and was privileged to briefly serve in Kailua, Hawaii, as Trinity Christian School transitioned to a classical model. She is currently the head of school at Covenant Academy in northwest Houston. Leslie and Dave have four children, the youngest of whom is graduating this year. Leslie holds a master of arts in biblical counseling from The Master's University and a bachelor of science in special education from the University of Maryland.



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 BA in religious studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has been married to her best friend, Patrick, for sixteen years, and they have two 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 (33 so far!) and national parks along the way. She also loves both baking and eating cake.



A resident of Goochland County, just west of Richmond, Virginia, **Grace T. Creasey** serves as the executive director of the Virginia Council for Private Education (VCPE). VCPE has a long history of leading and supporting excellence in private education in the Commonwealth through robust advocacy, accountability, and accreditation standards. Creasey became the Association's executive director on November 1, 2017. She has exceptional experience as a private and public school educator, fundraiser, teacher, and administrator. She graduated from three of the Commonwealth's prestigious private schools: The University of Richmond, Sweet Briar College, and Collegiate School. She has previously served at Blessed Sacrament Huguenot Catholic School, Goochland Middle School, Goochland High School, Maury High School, and McGuire Woods Consulting. She has been active in Virginia politics and is a strong advocate for private education and accountability for all schools.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Jenny Crockett is currently serving in her eighth year at Highland Rim Academy in Cookeville, TN. She began as a marketing/development director and has moved into other roles teaching earth science, physical science and physical education in the upper school. She also coaches the middle school girls' basketball team. Jenny has a passion for health and fitness and has been teaching upper-school PE for seven years. She also teaches spin and FitX/Bootcamp classes at the local YMCA. Jenny has a BS in environmental agriscience and an MBA from Tennessee Tech University. Her desire to teach PE in a more classical fashion led her to develop methods based on historical models. She and her husband, Darrin, have three daughters at HRA, and are passionate about promoting the value of classical Christian education.



Erick Erickson is the host of Atlanta's Evening News on WSB and editor of *The Resurgent*. Erickson has been a contributor for both CNN and Fox News and *The Atlantic* named him one of the most influential conservative voices in America. He studied political science and history at Mercer University and earned a law degree at Walter F. George School of Law. He is currently working towards his PhD in theology. Erickson lives with his family in Macon, Georgia, where his children attend a classical Christian school. To learn more, visit <http://theresurgent.com>.



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. She has been teaching for fourteen years. She and her husband, Bob, are parents to two spunky children. Kelly has found joy in ministering to women in prison. She enjoys traveling and marveling at God's creation.



Gretchen Gevert loves stories, science, children, and teaching. She began teaching elementary students in 1989 and has taught in co-op, private, and public schools. She currently teaches kindergarten enrichment and Latin at Rockbridge Academy in Maryland. Gretchen is married to an English major who now does statistics for a living. They have two high school sons, both at Rockbridge. Gretchen's hobbies include meeting strangers, walking Jack - her family's Portuguese Water Dog, teaching foundational truths, and baking almond flour cookies.



David Goodwin is the president of the Association of Classical & Christian Schools. David holds a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies and an MBA from Boise State University. Prior to his work at ACCS, Mr. Goodwin was the head of school at the Ambrose School in Boise, Idaho. He previously worked in marketing and business development at Hewlett Packard. He, his wife Stormy, and his three children, Elise (19), Alex (18), and Graham (13) live in Boise, Idaho.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



In almost 40 years of ministry, **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).



Patrick Halbrook teaches at Cary Christian School, where he has spent the past 13 years instructing middle and high school students in a wide variety of history, theology, and rhetoric courses. He currently teaches European History (11th grade), Rhetoric II (12th grade), and high school electives in Film and Graphic/Website Design. He directs the senior thesis project and helps manage and write for Cary Christian School's website and blog. Patrick received his MA in history from North Carolina State University, where he wrote his thesis on the Scopes "Monkey" Trial and its legacy in American culture. Prior to that, he studied the Bible and great books at Florida College. Patrick and his wife, Kaylie, operate a website and graphic design business, Halbrook Designs, specializing in websites and marketing materials for churches and schools. They live near Raleigh, North Carolina, with their four children: John Luke, Clara, Alethia, and Oliver.



Richard Halloran is currently the headmaster at Providence Classical School in Spring, TX. He graduated with bachelor's degrees from the Washington Bible College and Towson State University; with a master's in theology, specializing in academic ministries, from Dallas Theological Seminary (DTS); and is currently completing his dissertation in the Old Testament PhD program at DTS. In addition to teaching various classes to students at the upper-school level, he has also served an adjunct professor at Washington Bible College and Dallas Theological Seminary. Prior to moving to TX, he served as the head of school at two different schools and as an associate pastor. Richard and his wife, Mikki, have three children: Christopher, Isabella, and Thèoden.



Sean Johnson actually had a high school philosophy teacher named Plato, and has been devoted to classical education ever since. He is an Oregonian living in Florida, teaching humanities at Trinitas Christian School where he also runs the school's Classic Film Society and offers the occasional cooking lesson. He holds a BA in the liberal arts from New Saint Andrews College and an MA in English from the University of Dallas. Sean is also executive editor for *FORMA* journal, a publication of the CIRCE Institute devoted to classical thought and culture. He and his wife, Heather, have three sons/students and a fourth child waiting in the wings.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Travis Johnson has been the athletic director and physical education teacher at Regents School of Charlottesville in Virginia since 2014. Mr. Johnson is also the head coach for boys' varsity basketball. After attending James Madison University, Mr. Johnson began working with children in various capacities, coaching basketball at two local high schools, a local AAU team, and also for the YMCA Excel League. Prior to joining Regents School, Mr. Johnson was the boys' varsity basketball head coach at the Covenant School in Charlottesville, Virginia, where he coached for nearly ten years. Additionally, he was a lead instructor for the Virginia Basketball Academy (VABA) and had been a part of that association for ten years. He is married to Jeannie with whom he has two adult children, Treven and Alyssa. Mr. Johnson is a lifelong Dallas Cowboys fan, and he enjoys reading, traveling, playing golf, and serving as a Sunday School teacher at his church. Mr. Johnson has grown the athletic program at Regents School from a start-up entity to a thriving athletics department of state championship athletes and quality teams. Regents School now offers numerous team sports and athletic opportunities. First and foremost, Mr. Johnson is committed to the principle that sports should be used as a vehicle for character development and spiritual formation, always pointing students to Christ and bringing glory to God.



Andrew Kern is founder and president of the CiRCE Institute, a co-author of *The Lost Tools of Writing* and of *Classical Education: The Movement Sweeping America*, which he wrote with Dr. Gene Edward Veith. Since establishing CiRCE in 1996 to serve classical educators through research and consulting, Andrew has trained and apprenticed innumerable home and school teachers, heads of school, and school boards. 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. He and his wife live in North Carolina, and their five more-or-less classically educated and more-or-less homeschooled children and ever more grandchildren live in various places depending on when you ask.



Travis Lockyer serves as the head of grammar school at Annapolis Christian Academy in Corpus Christi, Texas. He has a master's of education in school administration from Doane University in Lincoln, Nebraska, and received an endorsement for elementary educational leadership from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. He has 20 years of education experience in Nebraska starting as a teacher and athletic coach, then as an activities director, and for seven years as an elementary principal, and three years as district special education director in the Nebraska public school system. During that time he became a fully trained reading specialist and instructional coach, being trained in several instructional models. In 2016, through a series of events in his two sons' lives, he became convicted of their educational experiences and his own professional compromises. Through conversations with his wife and reading of Douglas Wilson's book *Excused Absence*, he realized that some tough decisions needed to be made. On a leap of faith, in 2017, Travis accepted the leadership position at Annapolis and moved his Husker clan into south Texas. He feels like he is one "abnormally born" into classical education but has discovered an education he always wanted for his sons and one he has always wanted to be a part of professionally.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



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 school-based teacher training, and has led numerous regional teaching conferences at Veritas. He has been a frequent accrediting administrator for ACCS. Bryan and his wife, Ann, have three children, all of whom graduated from Veritas. Bryan has an MEd from Linfield College where he majored in history and secondary education. Bryan blogs frequently on teaching and classical education at classicalteaching.com.



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 major in astronautical 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 investigations 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 organizational 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.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Maryanne Navickas-Martin grew up singing in Texas choirs. She received her bachelor of music degree from Southwestern University in vocal performance. She then received a master of fine arts in vocal performance from University of California, Irvine, and a master of arts in counseling from Loyola Marymount University. Maryanne received fellowships to perform for Music Academy of the West as well as the Aspen Music Festival. Maryanne has also had an apprenticeship at Opera Pacific. Throughout her years of performing she was always teaching voice lessons. In the summer of 1999, Maryanne decided to move back home to Texas. Once she was back in Texas, she received her teaching certificate and taught in public schools for ten years. Maryanne met her husband Bob in 2003 and was married in 2004. They were blessed with twin daughters in 2009. A friend introduced them to Providence Classical School. While the girls were in kindergarten, their teacher introduced Maryanne to Wade Butin. They both had the same belief in the role that music should play in a curriculum. Working together, they are building a music program with intentions of making it part of the core curriculum.



Keith McCurdy has worked with families, children, parents, and individuals for over 30 years in the field of mental health, working with more than 12,000 individuals and families. He received his master of arts and education specialist degrees from James Madison University. He is currently the president and CEO of Total Life Counseling, Inc., and is licensed in the state of Virginia as a licensed professional counselor and licensed marriage and family therapist. Keith provides counseling and consulting services as well as a variety of workshops on improving parenting skills, building strong marriages, and maintaining healthy relationships. He has developed and regularly offers parenting retreats entitled “Raising Sturdy Kids” to help parents operate from the correct paradigm with their children and has extended and customized this powerful program for schools and students. For many years Keith has been a consultant and speaker nationally to schools both within and outside of the world of classical education. He also serves as the chairman of the board at Faith Christian School, a Christian classical school in Roanoke, VA. Keith is a regular contributor to the *Roanoke Star* with articles on children, parenting, and marriage. He has also been featured twice on the Circe Institute’s podcast “The Commons” discussing raising sturdy kids. His primary focus is helping others better understand how a Christian worldview, not psychology, should be the primary influence in parenting and relationships today. A significant part of his work has been helping parents understand the needed benefit of allowing their children to struggle to learn to do hard things. Keith is an avid outdoorsman and is actively involved with Boy Scouts of America and coaching high-school basketball. He and his wife, Lynn, have been married for 24 years with two children, one a junior in high school and one a junior in college.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Dr. Pamela McKee has been involved in Christian and classical education for more than twenty years. She served as head of school at Evangel Classical Christian School in Alabaster, Alabama, for thirteen years—growing the school from 53 to over 300 students. For the past six years she has served as head of school at Bayshore Christian School in Fairhope, AL, where student enrollment has increased from 165 to an anticipated 445 this fall. Dr. McKee is a self-proclaimed lifelong learner—earning her BA in Christian education and sociology at Huntingdon College, MA in educational leadership at Covenant College, and EdD in educational leadership at Liberty University. She and her husband Jeff have two sons: Dustin, a software engineer, and Landon, a graphic designer, who is married to Rebekah. They have three beautiful grandsons, Graham, Caleb, and Isaac. Dr. McKee enjoys pickleball, traveling, and reading. She has served on several ACCS accreditation teams and has presented on topics such as training your school board, pre-millennial Teachers, technology in the classroom, and growing schools.



Destiny McPheeters serves as the grammar school co-administrator, sixth grade language arts teacher, and librarian for Regent Preparatory School of Oklahoma. She holds a BA in elementary education from Oklahoma Baptist University. Destiny is the wife of a pastor, and they have three grown children. Over the years she has taught a variety of classes including robotics and debate. She loves teaching and administrating because each day is a fresh experience and opportunity to serve families.



Abdu Murray is the North American Director of Ravi Zacharias International Ministries and is the author of three books, including his latest book, *Saving Truth Finding Meaning and Clarity in a Post-Truth World*. For most of his life, Abdu was a proud Muslim who studied the Qur'an and Islam. After a nine-year investigation into the historical, philosophical, and scientific underpinnings of the major world religions and views, Abdu discovered that the historic Christian faith alone can answer the questions of the mind and the longings of the heart. Abdu has spoken to diverse international audiences and has participated in debates and dialogues across the globe. He has appeared as a guest on numerous radio and television programs all over the world and hosts the podcast "Embrace The Truth" with Abdu Murray. Abdu holds a BA in psychology from the University of Michigan—Ann Arbor and earned his juris doctor from the University of Michigan Law School. As an attorney, Abdu was named several times in Best Lawyers in America and Michigan Super Lawyer. Abdu is the Scholar in Residence of Christian Thought and Apologetics at the Josh McDowell Institute of Oklahoma Wesleyan University. Abdu lives in the Detroit, Michigan, area with his wife and their three children.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Elizabeth Perkins currently serves as the director of admission and marketing for Westminster Academy in Memphis, TN, but started her career as the production stage manager at Theatre Memphis. Prior to joining Westminster in 2014, she served as adjunct faculty in the Fogelman College of Business and Economics at the University of Memphis, teaching courses in organizational strategy, communications, and management. In her spare time, Elizabeth serves as the director for the Memphis Ostrander Awards (Memphis' theatre awards for collegiate, community, and professional theatre) and as a judge for high school theatre. Additionally, she is an active member of the Junior League of Memphis and the board of directors at Theatre Memphis. Most recently, Elizabeth was named by the *Memphis Business Journal* as one of the top "40 Under 40" in the Memphis area. In her "previous life" (aka, before children!), Elizabeth was the internal communications leader for the Capital Aviation Services division of General Electric. She holds a BA in political science from the University of Memphis and an MBA from Union University.



Ramie Phillips holds a BA in social studies education. She has taught in Christian schools in Ohio and Hawaii, and now teaches seventh and eighth grade history as well as Rhetoric I and II, at Schaeffer Academy in Rochester, MN, where she has served since 2002. She and her husband, Keith (Schaeffer's headmaster) live in Rochester, MN, and attend Trinity Presbyterian Church. They have two children, both graduates of Schaeffer Academy.



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 fifth-grade 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.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Mary Chris Rowe has been welcoming children into her classroom for twenty years. She takes great delight in a lively educational environment filled with music and song throughout the day. Whether they are passing out papers, learning to write in cursive, or playing a game, her students have come to expect there will probably be singing (and maybe even dancing!) involved. Mary Chris received a BS in English education from the Florida State University. She worked at the Geneva School as a second grade teacher for 11 years. While there, she received the Paideia Award for Teaching in 2012, an award which recognizes excellence in teaching. She then spent two years in Uganda teaching music at the Rafiki Institute of Classical Education. Mary Chris currently serves as a first grade teacher at Paideia Academy in Knoxville, TN.



Lori Scarbrough is currently a fifth-grade teacher at Bayshore Christian School in Fairhope, Alabama. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in business administration, Lori spent many years working in the business world. Upon feeling a call on her life to teach, she began to pursue her growing passion for classical Christian education. She is now in her seventh year of teaching. She resides in Fairhope, Alabama, with her husband Wil and their two children, Talley and Jeb.



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 two grandchildren.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Katherine G. Schultz, EdD, has spent over 30 years in K–12 Christian school classrooms and administration, and has been the associate headmaster at Schaeffer Academy in Rochester, Minnesota, since 2006, where she also teaches courses in math, worldview, rhetoric, and literature. Her other professional interests include assessing and developing student worldview, teacher mentoring, and curriculum development in classical Christian schools. She and her husband, TJ, live in Rochester, MN, and attend Autumn Ridge Church. Katherine’s hobbies include cooking, reading, sewing, quilting, reading, gardening, reading, travel, and reading.



David Seibel is a principal and Bible teacher at Coram Deo Academy in Carmel, IN. He has a variety of experiences ranging from foreign-language instruction to theological education to coaching baseball. He has a bachelor's from Wabash College in Spanish and economics, a masters of education from Marian University and is in final semester of his master of divinity at Southern Seminary. His passion is delighting in, displaying and declaring the Gospel through teaching and training for the glory of God in the next generation. He is married to the lovely Brooke and has two children, Davey and Piper.



Amy Shore began her work in education as administrator of King’s Meadow Study Center, an educational resource non-profit in Franklin, Tennessee. She then served for ten years as a teacher, coach, and administrative assistant at Franklin Classical School where she also assumed the role of coordinator for a regional teacher training conference. Amy graduated with a bachelor's degree in classical Christian education from Whitefield College and a master's in organizational leadership from Williamson College. In January of 2019, Amy was hired by CoreCivic, a diversified government solutions company, as their learning operations specialist charged with facilitating the College of Leadership within the company’s corporate university.

John Smith* has worked as a missionary in China for more than eight years. After church planting among Chinese Muslims for a season, he was called to help lay the foundations of classical Christian education in China. He currently teaches at China’s only classical Christian college and helps to train classical Christian educators from all over China through the Association of Chinese Classical Christian Schools (ACCCS). Throughout the course of his work, he has witnessed the growing persecution against the church by the Chinese government. At the end of last year, Chinese authorities seized the church and college where he serves and arrested more than 300 church members, including most of his students and colleagues—some of whom remain in prison. *name changed for security reasons



Mitch Stokes is a senior fellow of philosophy at New St. Andrews College. He received his PhD in philosophy from Notre Dame and an MA in religion from Yale. He also holds an MS in mechanical engineering and, prior to his teaching career, worked for an international engineering firm where he earned five patents in aeroderivative gas turbine technology. In addition to biographies of Newton and Galileo, his books include *A Shot of Faith (to the Head): Be a Confident Believer in an Age of Cranky Atheists* (Thomas Nelson), *How to Be an Atheist: Why Many Skeptics Aren't Skeptical Enough* (Crossway), and *Calculus for Everyone* (forthcoming).

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Jesse Sumpter has taught for ten years with Veritas Scholars Academy. He is also the managing editor for the blogazine at CrossPolitic and he has written for Veritas Press, *Kuyperian Commentary*, and *The Imaginative Conservative*. He is also one of the creators of the Latin Reading Competition which is held annually. He graduated from New Saint Andrews College with a master's degree in classical and Christian education. Jesse and his wife, Kate, have a daughter and live in Moscow, Idaho.



Titus Szymanowski was born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, but for the past seven years he has called Houston, Texas, home. He is currently an upper-school teacher and director of student life at Covenant Academy, a PK-12 classical Christian school in Cypress, TX. Titus graduated from The Oaks Classical Christian Academy in Spokane, Washington, in 2007. He then went on to receive his bachelor's degree in religious studies at Gonzaga University. When he's not in the classroom, he enjoys playing board games with his wife, Melissa, and shooting hoops with his 2-year old son, Eli.



Donna Taylor is a third-grade teacher at Veritas Academy in Savannah, GA. She is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and has been teaching in classical schools for 10 years. Donna is married to Scott Taylor who has been a classical school headmaster for 20 years. They have two sons, Josiah and Samuel, who both attend Covenant College. Their daughter, Abigail, is a recent high school graduate.



Christian Tillman joined the faculty of Trinity Christian School in Opelika, Alabama, in 2015 where she developed and implemented the school's afternoon kindergarten enrichment program. Since then, she has transitioned to teaching logic-level English and grammar. Christian is passionate about Christian education and has a deep love for classic juvenile literature. She holds a bachelor of arts degree from Auburn University where she studied English and history. Christian and her husband, Shea, enjoy college-town life in Auburn, Alabama. They have three children, Andrew, Campbell, and Frances, who attend Trinity.



Laura Tucker is a founder and was the director of instruction of Rockbridge Academy, a classical and Christian school in Millersville, MD, from 1995-2011. She has over 30 years of experience in K-12 education as a teacher, administrator, reading specialist, and educational diagnostician. She holds an MEd from Loyola University and a national certification for educational diagnosticians. She and her husband, Rob, an ACCS national board member, have two adult sons who attended Rockbridge Academy.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



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.



Sandra Ward has been teaching second grade at Veritas Academy in Savannah, Georgia, for the past sixteen years. She attended Armstrong State University in Savannah, and was a fashion merchandise buyer for Belk Department Stores. Sandra is a member and past president of PEO, a national philanthropic organization for women's education. She and her husband have two grown children.



Carl Warmouth is the interim head of school and dean of the grammar school at the Ambrose School in Meridian, Idaho. Before coming to Ambrose in 2014, he was the headmaster at Trinity Christian School in Opelika, Alabama. Classical Christian education has been a family affair for the Warmouths. Carl's wife, Janine has been teaching in classical Christian schools since 2000. Their two children went to cC schools (Trinity and Ambrose) K-12, and their daughter graduated from New Saint Andrews in 2017. She is currently also a classical Christian teacher. In his off time Carl enjoys backpacking the vast mountain ranges of Idaho and pursuing trout with a fly rod.



Gregory Wilbur is president and dean of New College Franklin (a Christian liberal arts college that he helped to start) and the chief musician and liturgist at Cornerstone Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Franklin, TN. For almost twenty-five years, he has taught in classical schools. He is the author of *Glory and Honor: The Music and Artistic Legacy of Johann Sebastian Bach* and has written chapters in several books on music and the arts. He has released three albums of his compositions of congregational psalms, hymns, and service music and also composes for choir, orchestra, film, and chamber ensembles—including the soundtrack for the documentary on Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Logic on Fire*. In addition to being a regular speaker at classical conferences, he has a column on the quadrivium called "The Crossroads" on the CiRCE Institute website. His wife, Sophia, homeschools their daughter, Eleanor, and they all enjoy reading, cooking, taking walks, and enjoying life in middle Tennessee.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



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 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 an undergrad in English literature at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and an MA in curriculum and instruction from Tennessee Technological University. She at one time held state licensure in the state of Tennessee but has since fully recovered. She enjoys her country home with her husband of 16 years and four young children, two of whom will be entering grades two and four at HRA this fall.