Spring 2027 Scheduling

Updated 11/11/2026
10:30am EST

Virginia Beach is in the Eastern Time Zone

Thursday, March 11

8:30am Morning Prayer

9 - 10:30am Opening Plenary Session/Panel

Tolkien and the Inklings, Men of the West: Author Meets Critics: A Conversation

- Book discussed: *Tolkien and the Inklings: Men of the West*, by Dr. Brad Birzer

- Josh Herring (Logres Institute)
- Annie Crawford (Logres Institute)
- Sean Hadley (Florida State Univ.)
- Mark Perkins (St. Dunstan's Academy)
- Scott Postma (Kepler Education)
- Brad Birzer (Hillsdale College)

10:30am – 11am Break

11am - 12:30pm Breakout Session #1

1a - **Taking Nietzsche to Church**

CHAIR: Ethan Alexander-Davey (Campbell Univ.)

- Konstantin Leontiev: A Nietzschean Who Went to Church
  - Ethan Alexander-Davey (Campbell Univ.)
- Nietzsche's Tragic Atheism
  - Michael Harding (Montgomery College)
- Strengths of a Post-Nietzschean Faith
  - Chris Anadale (Mount Saint Mary's Univ.)

1b - **Roundtable: AI Use in Film and Television Formats**

- Ashley Zahorian (Regent Univ.)
- Nathan Tillet (Regent Univ.)
- Curtis Boggs (Curtis Boggs Productions)

1c - **The Southern Agrarians, Tradition, and Southern Intellectual History**

CHAIR: Jacob Hiserman

- [Title TBD]
  - Jacob Hiserman
- The Man of Letters and Post-Southern America, 1980-2000
  - Jay Langdale
- 'The Whole Horse: Philosophical Realism and the American South'
  - Jonathen Loxley (Regent Univ.)

DISCUSSANT: Joel Iliff (Regent Univ.)

1d – **An Eye for Education**

CHAIR: Darrell Falconburg (Russell Kirk Center)

- T.S. Eliot and Education: G.H. Bantock as Interpreter and Critic
  - Darrell Falconburg (Russell Kirk Center)
- The Morass Which is Modern Public-School Education
  - Noelle Salgado (Texas A&M School of Law)
- Athens, Jerusalem, and the Secular Age
  - Samuel Sadler (Paideia Academy)
- James W.C. Pennington and the Early African American Intellectual Tradition
  - Caitlin Smith (St. Bonaventure Univ.)

DISCUSSANT: Claire Baker (Boyce College)

12:30pm – 1:45pm Lunch (catered)

2pm - 3:30pm Breakout Session #2

2a **Man and Artifice: Confronting AI in Anthropology and the Academy**

CHAIR: Joel Iliff (Regent Univ.)

- AI as "Counter-Alchemy"
  - David Banica (Regent Univ.)
- The Anthropology of AI in the Western Christian tradition
  - Joel Iliff (Regent Univ.)
- History of Modern Technology in the Academy
  - Charles Carman (Regent Univ.)
- Neo-platonism and the Cybernetic Self
  - Jon Thompson (Regent Univ.)

DISCUSSANT: Jeff Bristol

2b – **Marriage, Manhood, and Sacramentality**

CHAIR: Jim LaGrand (Messiah Univ.)

- The Father-Son Relationship in Homer
  - Thomas Varacalli (Belmont Abbey College)

- On manhood: A dialogue between Homer and Lewis
  - Jim LaGrand (Messiah Univ.)

- To Have and to Hold: A Sacramental View of Marriage and Children
  - Adeline A. Allen (Trinity Law School)

DISCUSSANT: David Upham (St. Thomas Univ. College of Law / Univ. of Dallas)

2c - **Ancient Virtue Outside the Humanities**

CHAIR: John Robinson (James Madison University)

- Virtue and Tacit Knowledge in Intelligence Ethics Education
  - John Robinson (James Madison University)

- Three Key Questions for Vocational Discernment
  - Carl Larsson (James Madison University)

- The Philosophical Habit of Mind and the Computer Science Curriculum
  - John Bowers (James Madison University)

2d - **The Celebrated Montesquieu on Civics, Climate, Feudalism, and Intermediate Powers**
CHAIR: Stephen Thomas (Ave Maria Univ.)

- Montesquieu on Intermediary Powers
  - Stephen Thomas (Ave Maria Univ.)

- A Civic Education for the Spirit of the American People
  - Zack German (Univ. of Tennessee)

- Montesquieu's Feudalism: A Reconsideration
  - Peter McDonald (Baylor Univ.)

- The State of Nature: A Constraint on Climate in *The Spirit of the Laws*
  - Samuel Clancy (Baylor Univ.)

3:30pm – 4pm Break

4pm - 5:30pm Breakout Session #3

3a - **A Field Manual for Creating Culture**
CHAIR: Mark Perkins (St. Dunstan's Academy)

- 'Love Made Audible': Theological and Practical Reflections on Unity of Spirit in Singing
  - Mark Perkins (St. Dunstan's Academy)

- Teaching the pupil to like what it ought: poetry, wonder, and the seeds of wisdom
  - Thomas Fickley (St. Dunstan's Academy)

- For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ
  - Parker Gilley (St. Dunstan's Academy)

3b – **On Place, Property, and Belonging**

CHAIR: William Batchelder IV (Cleveland State Univ.)

- Revising Property Law's Treatment of Hallowed Ground
  - David Scott (Bellarmine Univ.)
- Touched but Not Healed: Grace and Place in Waugh and Greene
  - Oskar Chomicki
- Domestic Belonging, Grounded Locality, and Social Outreach in E. M. Forster's *Howards End*
  - Sarah Riley (Baylor Univ.)
- Attention, Place, and the Sacramental Imagination in Robinson's Gilead Novels
  - Luke Farwell (First United Presbyterian Church)

DISCUSSANT: Luke Sheahan (Duquesne Univ.)

3c - **Prudence and Political Virtue: Statesmanship, Citizenship, and the Common Good**

CHAIR: John Grove (Liberty Fund)

- Hispanic Cicero: Jovellanos and Virtuous Statesmanship in the Liberal Age
  - Felipe Julián Mosquera-Blanco (The Catholic Univ. of America)
- Prudence at War: Reconsidering the Charioteer of Virtues in Strategic Just War Theory and Civil-Military Dialogue
  - Brigid Hickman, (The Catholic Univ. of America)
- When Politics Were Local: Political Participation as the School of Republican Virtue
  - David B. McGarry (Hillsdale College)
- How we do Things Together: What Liberalism gets Wrong--and Right--about Politics
  - Bruce Frohnen (Ohio Northern Univ. College of Law)

DISCUSSANT: John Grove (Liberty Fund)

5:30pm – 6pm Break

6pm – 8pm Dinner and Storing Prize Presentation

8pm – 11pm Reception with Cash Bar

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Friday, March 12

830am Morning Prayer

9 - 10:30am Breakout Session #4

4a - **Family, Society, and State**

CHAIR: Ben Peterson (Abilene Christian University)

- The Family of the Fourth Amendment: The Common Law and Constitution of the Household
  - Luke C. Sheahan (Duquesne Univ. / *University Bookman*)
- The Family Comes Before the State: Orestes Brownson on America's Family Decline
  - Vladimir Snurenco (Acton Institute)
- From Realist Ontology to Practical Wisdom: Navigating Our Social Crises
  - Ben Peterson (Abilene Christian Univ.)
- Bob Woodson's Intellectual Legacy for Neighborhood Enterprise
  - Rachel Ferguson (Concordia Univ. Chicago)

DISCUSSANT: Jason Jewell (Florida Board of Governors)

4b - **Returning to Early Christianity**

- A Friendship Interrupted: Jerome's Friendships with Rufinus and Augustine Considering Cicero's De Amicitia
    - Maja Rončević and Ivan Bodrožić (Univ. of Split)

- Beneath the Surface: what basilica di San Clemente teaches us about Mithraism and Christianity
    - Wayne Braudrick (Frisco Bible Church)

- [In Defense of Magic: Against the Collapse of Magic into Religion]
    - Daniel Gullotta (Ohio State Univ.)

- Augustine's Seven-Stage Journey: Christianizing the Ancient Practice of Ascent in *De quantitate animae*
    - Tom Holsteen (B&H Academic)

4c - **Towards a New Order of the Earth**

CHAIR: Colin Brown (Franciscan Univ. of Steubenville)

- The American Imperial Project from the Twentieth Century to Today
    - Colin Brown (Franciscan Univ. of Steubenville)
- "Our Separate and Equal Station: Social Compact Theory and American Foreign Policy"
    - Michael Driscoll (Florida Statjaye Univ.)
- MAGA and the World Order: Continuity and Change
    - Josiah Lippincott (West Virginia Univ.)

- William Howard Taft and the League of Nations to Enforce Peace
    - Kevin Slack (Hillsdale College / *Pietas*)

4d - **Prophets, Priests, Kings—and Poets? Religion and Politics in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-century Poetry**
CHAIR: Matthew Reising

- American Prophet: The Revolutionary and Christian Politics of Phillis Wheatley Peters' Poetry
  - Matthew Reising (Univ. of Texas - Austin)

- The Role of Italy's Artistic Tradition in Elizabeth Barrett Browning's Political Poetry of the Risorgimento
  - Allison Reising (Univ. of Texas - Austin)

- Poetry, Prophecy, Prayer: Tennyson, Rossetti, and Hopkins on The Religious Role of the Poet
  - Molly Lewis (Regent Univ.)

- Straining After Heaven: Christina Rossetti and the Anglican Hymnal
  - Stewart Riley (Abilene Christian University)

DISCUSSANT: Richard Jordan (Baylor University) and Theresa Natali (Baylor University)

10:30am – 11am Break

11am - 12:30pm Breakout Session #5

5a - **MEGA (Making Economics Great Again)**
CHAIR: Paul Mueller (American Institute for Economic Research)

- Make Economics Humane Again
  - Paul Mueller (American Institute for Economic Research)

- Make Economics Ethical Again
  - Erik Matson (Catholic Univ. of America)

- Economics as if Humans Mattered
  - Bob Subrick (James Madison Univ.)

- Make Economics Fallible Again
  - John Robinson (James Madison Univ.)

5b - **American Political Thought and Virtue**

CHAIR: Bruce Frohnen (Ohio Northern Univ. College of Law)

- In duty to their country": Charles Carroll of Carrollton and Republican Gentlemen
  - Chance Cook (Hillsdale College)

- Is There No Virtue Among Us?: Virtue and Self-Interest in the Framers Constitutional Design
  - Paul DeHart (Texas State Univ.)

- Reading Liberty from Prison: Christian Formation and the American Moral Imagination
  - Jared Lee (Oklahoma Baptist Univ.)

- The Light Can Not Be Hid: On the Eve of Another Anniversary – Rethinking Winthrop's Sermon
  - Christopher Fritsch

DISCUSSANT: Bruce Frohnen (Ohio Northern Univ. College of Law)

5c - **The Participatory Imagination: Literature, Re-Enchantment, and Poetic Knowing**

CHAIR: Edie Joyce (St. Peregrine Academy)

- "He Spoke and They Were Made": Reflections on Literature as Participation in the Divine
  - John Joyce (IHS Press)

- Entering the Story: Participatory Narrative and the Re Enchantment of the Christian Imagination
  - Edie Joyce (St. Peregrine Academy)

- Imagination, Experience, and the Poetic Mode of Knowing
  - Ben Strong (St. Andrews Academy)

5d - **Instilling Virtuous Education from Cradle to the Complete Citizen**

CHAIR: Chase Spears (Herzog Foundation)

- Purpose Drives Education: Understanding Why We Teach Math
  - Lori Spears, Society of Butterflies

- Educating the Complete Citizen: The Educational Theories of Captain Alden Partridge
  - Franklin Annis, Army University Press

- The Superior Value of a Limited Apprenticeship Model of Training Military Communicators
  - Chase Spears, Herzog Foundation

12:30pm - 1:45pm Lunch (catered)

2pm - 3:30pm Breakout Session #6

6a **Religious Liberty in America: How Are We Doing? How Could We Do Better?**

CHAIR: Mark David Hall (Center for Religion, Culture, and Democracy)

- Religious Liberty in the States 2027
  - Mark Hall (Regent University and Center for Religion, Culture & Democracy)
  - Paul Mueller (Center for Religion, Culture & Democracy and American Institute for Economic Research)

- The 2026 Religious Freedom Index
  - Derringer Dick (The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty

- What is Religion and what is its place in the State?
  - Frank DeVito (Napa Legal Institute)

6b - **Statesmanship in Many Guises**

CHAIR: Jordan T. Cash (Michigan State Univ.)

- The Civil War Congress: Separation of Powers in the 37th and 38th Congresses
  - Jordan T. Cash (Michigan State Univ.)
- Sovereignty and Leadership for Liberty: Henry Clay's Foreign Policy
  - Clinton Condra (Univ. of Toledo)
- "Look Each Man in the Face": Winston Churchill and the Telling of Hard Truths
  - David Clinton (Baylor Univ.)
- Booker T. Washington and the Spirit of Democratic Citizenship in America
  - Joseph Natali (Princeton Univ.)

6c - **Roman Catholic and Orthodox Influences in the Protestant South**

CHAIR: Jay Langdale

- From Enlightened to Romantic Arguments for Catholic Inclusion
  - David Roach (Campbellsville Univ.)
- The Quest for Byzantium and the Founding of Virginia
  - Joel Iliff (Regent Univ.)
- Catholics and the Hard Hand of War: Kentucky, 1864
  - Adam Tate (Clayton State Univ.)

6d - **Edmund Burke and the Roots of Conservative Order**

CHAIR: Michael Lucchese (Pipe Creek Consulting / Liberty Fund)

- Enlightenment and Prejudice: Burke on Education
  - Michael Lucchese (Pipe Creek Consulting / Liberty Fund)
- Burke and the Boundaries of Politics
  - John Grove (Liberty Fund)
- Burke and Johnson: Christian Devotion as Virtue Ethics
  - Wesley Reynolds (Russell Kirk Center)
- Burke and Walter Scott
  - Chris Scalia (American Enterprise Institute)

DISCUSSANT: Bradley Birzer (Hillsdale College)

3:30pm – 4pm Break

4pm - 5:30pm Breakout Session #7

7a - **Tradition, Place & 'Things Divine' in Islam**

CHAIR: Jeff Bristol

- What Christianity Can Learn from Islam
  - Jeffrey Bristol
- Tribalism or Religious Syncretism…or Both?: The Curious Case of Christian-Muslim Relations in al-Karak
  - Sami Sweis (Centre College)
- Refusing the Expression Only: the Medieval Copt al-Ṣafī b. al-'Assāl on God in Christianity and Islam
  - Onsi Kamel (Princeton Univ.)

7b - **The Problem of Canadian Multiculturalism & the Solutions of Federalist #10**

CHAIR: Dimpee Brar (Univ. of Toronto)

- Dimpee Brar (Univ. of Toronto)
- Mark Kremer (Hillsdale College)
- Richard Buckwalter (London School of Economics)

7c – **Seeing the True, Good, and Beautiful in Art**

CHAIR: Rod Miller (Hendrix College)

- To Be a Beautiful Person
  - Rod Miller (Hendrix College)
- Thomas Cole's Maturation of Art in America
  - Matthew Michels, OblSB
- Between Drama and Devotion: Metaphorical Criticism of Leonardo da Vinci's and Levon Mnazakanian's *Last Supper*
  - Jonathan Powers and Hanisha Besant (Regent Univ.)
- "The Unknown is always known in one's bones:" visual art in the theory of Philip Rieff
  - William Batchelder IV (Cleveland State Univ)

7d – **Surviving in a Disenchanted World**

CHAIR: Chris Anadale (Mount Saint Mary's Univ.)

- The Farmers and The City-Folk Can Be Friends
  - Stephen and Casey-Mae McGinley (Good Soil Farm LLC; Lecturer, Mount St. Mary's University)
- Reflections on Philosophy and Timber Framing
  - Quinn Gerney (Timber Framer, Philosopher)
- How Pessimism Can Save Your Life
  - Chris Anadale (Mount St. Mary's University)

5pm – 8pm Dinner at attendees' discretion

8pm – 11pm Reception with Cash Bar

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Saturday, March 13

8:30am Morning Prayer

9 - 10:30am Breakout Session #8

8a - **The Right on Church and State**

CHAIR: Mark David Hall

- Who's Afraid of Christian Nationalism?
  - Mark David Hall (Regent Univ.)
- The Value of Freedom: Christian Nationalism and Religious Liberty
  - Jonathan Ashbach (Univ. of Toledo)
- Order, Piety, and the Problem of Theocracy: Richard Weaver and the Limits of the Sacred State
  - Koty Arnold (Regent Univ.)
- Hobbesian Basis of Contemporary Christian Nationalism
  - Nicholas Higgins (North Greenville Univ.)

DISCUSSANT: Stephen Wolfe

8b - **Elections and the States: Looking back to 2026, and ahead to 2028**

CHAIR: Allen Mendenhall (Heritage Foundation)

- On the Electoral College
  - Michael Maibach (Save Our States / James Wilson Institute)
- On State Economics
  - Allen Mendenhall (Heritage Foundation)
- On State Education
  - Jason Jewell (Florida Board of Governors)

8c **Intellectual Discipleship in Modernity**

CHAIR: Cole Simmons (Redeemer Classical School)

- Intellectual Discipleship in Modernity
  - Cole Simmons (Redeemer Classical School)
- Philosophy, Skepticism, and Fate in Herman Melville's Moby-Dick
  - Jason Lund (Treasure Valley Classical Academy)
- B. B. Warfield and The Intellectual's Role
  - Ron Hoch (Headmaster of Redeemer Classical School)

DISCUSSANT: David Clinton (Baylor Univ.)

8d - **Embodied Man and Platonism**

- The Satyr Skin of the Divine: Plato and the importance of the body in the pursuit of knowledge
  - Luke Sherman (Hillsdale College)
- The Fourfold Path: The Ascetics of Knowing: The dialectical role of the athlete in the process of Spirit
  - Sydney Shaskan (Ralston College)
- Mathematics must be embodied
  - Will Paschal (Ralston College)

10:30am - 11am Break

11 - 12:30pm Breakout Session #9

9a - **Roundtable: How the Academy Can Support Faith and Work Integration in the Church**

- Jacqueline Isaacs (Center for Religion, Culture, and Democracy / Fuller Theological Seminary)
- Joshua Nangle ((Regent University School of Divinity))
- Hunter Baker (Center for Religion, Culture, and Democracy)
- Rachel Ferguson (Concordia Univ. - Chicago)

9b - **To Be or Not to Be a Hero**

CHAIR: Andrew Mitchell (Grove City College)

- "He Was Great of Heart": Magnanimity in Shakespeare's *Othello*
  - Katherine L. Bradshaw (Ancient Language Institute)
- The Clash of the Titans and our Incipient Heroic Age
  - Andrew Mitchell (Grove City College)
- Chivalry in Spats: Lord Peter Wimsey and the Recovery of Myth
  - Annie Crawford (Logres Institute)

9c - **Wisdom and the Word in an Age of Artificial Intelligence**

CHAIR: Jacob Wolf (Univ. of Austin)

- A Biblical Natural Law Critique of Generative AI and the Destruction of Skillful Performance
  - Nicholas Spencer (The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary)
- Aristotle to the Leos: Human Flourishing Amidst Technological Revolution
  - Matthew Das (Regent University)
- Tocqueville, Artificial Intelligence, and Democratic Epistemology
  - Jacob Wolf (University of Austin)
- Oral Performance and the Progymnasmata Tradition: Public Speaking Instruction in an Age of Textuality and AI
  - David Impellizzeri (Regent University)

9d - **The Light of Literature**

CHAIR: Ryan Holston (Virginia Military Institute)

- Dark Idealism: the Worship of Will in Cormac McCarthy's Blood Meridian
  - Ryan Holston (Virginia Military Institute)

- Oedipus as King: Oedipus Rex and the Theologico-Political Problem
  - Aaron Walayat (Univ. of Dayton)

- The Frightening Silence of Infinite Spaces: The Church's Role in Naturalizing Space in Science Fiction
  - Caleb Ridings

12:30pm – 1:45pm Lunch (catered)

2:00 - 3:30pm Breakout Session #10

10a - **Politics, Literature, and Film**

CHAIR: Jordan T. Cash (Michigan State Univ.)

- Aristophanes' Fantastical Demagogue: Comedy and Civic Education
  - Sebastian Graham (Purdue Univ,)

- Romantic Comedies and Political Philosophy
  - Richard Jordan (Baylor Univ.)

- Chesterton's International Relations
  - Paul Weisser (Belmont Abbey College)

- Etiquette and Idolatry in O'Connor's "A Circle in the Fire
  - Theresa Natali (Baylor Univ.)

DISCUSSANT: Allison Scheidegger Reising (Univ. of Texas at Austin) and Christine J. Boor (Belmont Abbey College)

10b – **Eternal Human Nature and the Classical Art of Persuasion… Or Its Alternative**
CHAIR: Chris Collinsworth (Hillsdale College)

- Abraham Lincoln's Ciceronian and Republican Rhetoric
  - Chris Collinsworth (Hillsdale College)

- Ethos and Scandal: some pitfalls of social media according to Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas
  - Ben Coughlin (Hillsdale College)

- An Antidote to Totalitarianism: Josef Pieper's Theology of Love in Orwell's *1984*
  - Zane Mabry (Hillsdale College)

10c – **The Fourteenth Amendment Revisited**
CHAIR: Rudy Hernandez (Univ. of Missouri)

- The Desegregation of Girard College and the Public's Claims Over Institutions
  - Rudy Hernandez (Univ. of Missouri)

- *Buck v. Bell* and the Original Understanding of the Fourteenth Amendment
  - David Upham (St. Thomas Univ. College of Law / Univ. of Dallas)

- A Floor, Not a Ceiling: The Limitations of the Fourteenth Amendment and the Promise of State Constitutions
  - Nathaniel Fouch (Capital Univ. Law School)

- Due Process of Natural Law: From Structure to Substance
  - Joseph Devaney (Abraham Baldwin Agriculture College)

10d - **Against the Disorder of Our Age**

CHAIR: Katherine Bradshaw (Ancient Language Institute)

- St. Augustine Against the Therapeutic Age
  - D.P. Curtin (Third Order of St. Augustine)

- Moral Skepticism and Its Contribution to Machine Ideology
  - Albert Norton

- Arendt's *Origins:* Community, Common Sense, and Mass Psychosis.
  - William Reddinger, (Regent University)

- Tyranny of the Soul & the Perpetual Problem of Self Defense Against Non-State Actors
  - Michelle Kundmueller (Old Dominion Univ.)

DISCUSSANT: Andrew Mitchell (Grove City College)

3:30pm – 4pm Break

4 – 5:30pm Closing Plenary Session

Old World Politics and Theology in America

CHAIR: Andrew McGinnis (Center for Religion, Culture, and Democracy)

- Becoming an American Church: Maryland Presbyterians and the Struggle for Religious Equality
  - Andrew McGinnis (Center for Religion, Culture, and Democracy)

- Freedom and the Free Church: How Early Baptist Confessions Conceive of Religious Liberty
  - Stephen Presley (Center for Religion, Culture, and Democracy)

- Reading the Room: How Nineteenth-Century Irish Machines Mirrored Their Cities' Politics
  - Patrick McDonald (Notre Dame Law School)
    - **Winner of the 2026 Piccadilly Prize, CRCD Shaftesbury Fellowship

- High Church Activism in a Low Church Land: The Reception of Neo-Lutheran and Anglo-Catholic Social Thought in Nineteenth-Century America
  - Bethany Kilcrease (Aquinas College)

5:30pm – 6pm Closing Remarks / Lawler and Batchelder Prize

5pm – 8pm Dinner at attendees' discretion

8pm – 11pm Reception with Cash Bar