

# “The Test of the Imagination”

## 2018 Chesterton Conference Speaker Lineup



**Brandon Vogt** is a bestselling Catholic author of seven books and the Content Director for Bishop Robert Barron's Word on Fire Catholic Ministries. He is the founder of ClaritasU, an online community helping Catholics get clear about their faith, and StrangeNotions.com, the central place of dialogue between Catholics and atheists. Brandon serves as the President of the Central Florida Chesterton Society and lives outside of Orlando with his wife, six children, eight goats, and thirty chickens.

Session: “**Chesterton and the Internet**”

**Dale Ahlquist** is the President of the American Chesterton Society, Co-Founder of Chesterton Academy, and a Senior Fellow of the Chesterton Library in Oxford.



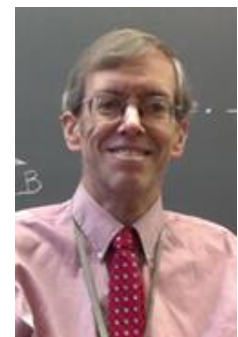
Session: “**The Test of the Imagination**”



**Susan Hanssen** is associate professor and chair of history at the University of Dallas where she has taught for fifteen years. She has published several articles on G. K. Chesterton and has taught a course on the Anglo-American Catholic Intellectual Revival.

Session: “**GKC and the Historical Imagination**”

**James Woodruff** is a teacher of Mathematics at Worcester Academy in Worcester, Massachusetts, and has given talks at past conferences on Pascal, Dr. Johnson, Burke, Macaulay, and Cobbett.



Session: “**A Short History of a Short History**”



**Nancy Brown** is the author of *The Woman Who Was Chesterton*, the first biography of GKC's wife, Frances. She is also the host of the Uncommon Sense podcast, and manages social media for The American Chesterton Society.

Session: **“Chesterton and Walt Disney”**

**Liza Levina** graduated from Russian State University for the Humanities in Moscow, Russia, where she was a student of American and Russian Studies. She is currently working towards a PhD degree at the University of Southern California. She is interested in fictional countries in literature and cinema, Russian poetry of the Silver Age, letters in non-epistolary prose, folklore motifs in belles-lettres, and languages and cultures of Serbia, Croatia and Poland.



Session: **“The Nameless and The Strangely-Named: Chesterton and Fictional Countries”**



**Julian Ahlquist** is a founding faculty member of Chesterton Academy in Edina, where he has played a critical role in developing the school's curriculum in philosophy, history, and literature.

Session: **“Chesterton and Mary Poppins”**

**Karl Schmude** is President of the Australian Chesterton Society and author of the biographical booklet *G.K. Chesterton* (London: Catholic Truth Society, 2008). He is a Founding Fellow of Australia's only liberal arts college, Champion College in Sydney.



Session: **“Chesterton and Australia”**



**Kevin O'Brien** is the founder and artistic director of The Theater of the Word Incorporated, which tours the country evangelizing through drama. He also well known for his work on EWTN, including on Dale Ahlquist's show The Apostle of Common Sense. Kevin writes a regular column for Joseph Pearce's magazine The St. Austin Review.

Session: **C.S. Lewis and Tolkien dialogue about  
*The Everlasting Man***

**David Treadway** is a producer, director, actor and writer. He has been performing on stage since his early teens and began his career in video production in 2005. While performing he has traveled most of the continental United States as well as to six foreign countries. A convert to Catholicism, he had the joy of being received into the Catholic Church in July of 2014. He and his wonderful wife of 11 years, Susie, live in St. Louis, MO with their Chihuahuas, Oscar and Freddie.



Session: **C.S. Lewis and Tolkien dialogue about  
*The Everlasting Man***

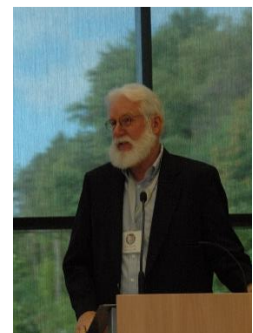


**Joseph Grabowski** is the head of the Southeast Pennsylvania Chesterton Society and Director of Communications for the National Organization for Marriage.

Session: **“Chesterton and Kierkegaard and  
What the First Frog Said”**

**Tom Martin** is a professor of philosophy at the University of Nebraska Kearney and is editor of *The Examined Life*. He is also a permanent deacon in the Diocese of Grand Island, NE.

Session: **“We Have All Forgotten Who We Are”**





**Joseph Pearce** is a prolific author who has written biographies of G.K. Chesterton, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Oscar Wilde, J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Shakespeare, and almost everybody else. He is now Senior Editor at the Augustine Institute.

Session: **“Elfland & Beyond: Chesterton in Middle Earth and Narnia”**

Raised as a cradle Catholic and introduced to Chesterton at an early age, **Gellert Dornay** has spent his entrepreneurial career wrestling between faith and meaningful engagement in our political economy and after 25 years has found the answer. He and his wife Elizabeth homeschool their 10 kids in the Seattle area.



Session: **“It’s ALL About the Shareholders”**



**Emily de Rotstein** is the Executive Director of Chesterton Academy in Edina, Minnesota.

Session: **“Chesterton Schools Network”**

**Vicki Darkey** runs the Western Pennsylvania Chesterton Society and is the official liaison for the local Chesterton Societies in the United States.

Session: **“Local Chesterton Societies”**

