

The Test of the Imagination

37th Annual American Chesterton Conference

August 2nd-4th, 2018 | DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando Airport

Opening Session THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

7:00PM Chesterton and the Internet
Brandon Vogt - Content Director,
Bishop Robert Barron's Word on Fire Catholic
Ministries, Orlando, FL

8:30PM The Test of the Imagination
Dale Ahlquist - President, American Chesterton
Society and Co-Founder, Chesterton Academy,
Minneapolis, MN

Day Two FRIDAY, AUGUST 3

**9:00AM G.K. Chesterton and the
Historical Imagination**
Susan Hanssen - Associate Professor and Chair
of History, University of Dallas, Irving, TX

10:30AM A Short History of a Short History
James Woodruff - Teacher of Mathematics at
Worcester Academy, Worcester, MA

1:00PM Chesterton and Walt Disney
Nancy Brown - Author of *The Woman Who
Was Chesterton*, the first biography of Frances
Chesterton, Chicago, IL

**2:30PM Chesterton and Fictional
Countries**
Liza Levina - Graduate of Russian State
University for the Humanities, Moscow, Russia;
currently PhD candidate at the University of
Southern California

4:00PM Chesterton and Mary Poppins
Julian Ahlquist - Founding faculty member,
Chesterton Academy, Minneapolis, MN

7:00PM Chesterton and Australia
Karl Schmude - President, Australian
Chesterton Society and Founding Fellow, Campion
University, Sydney, Australia

**8:30PM I Call You Friends - A Special
C.S. Lewis & J.R.R. Tolkien Play**
Actors Kevin O'Brien and Dave Treadway reenact a
discussion between Lewis and Tolkien about G.K.
Chesterton's *Everlasting Man*

Performance followed by a book-signing for
An Actor Bows, a new autobiography by
Kevin O'Brien!

Day Three SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

9:00AM Chesterton and Kierkegaard
Joe Grabowski - Director of Communications
for the National Organization for Marriage,
Philadelphia, PA

**10:00AM We Have All Forgotten
Who We Are**
Deacon Tom Martin - Professor of Philosophy
at the University of Nebraska Kearney and editor of
The Examined Life, Kearney, NE

**11:00AM Elfland & Beyond: Chesterton in
Middle Earth and Narnia**
Joseph Pearce - Senior Editor, Augustine
Institute, Greenville, SC

1:00PM Break-Out Sessions
Emily de Rotstein - Chesterton Schools Network
Dale Ahlquist - Q&A
Vicki Darkey - Local Chesterton Societies
Gellert Dornay - *It's ALL About the Shareholders:*
A Case Study in Distributism

4:00PM Confessions and Vigil Mass

7:00PM Closing Banquet
Traditions: Jokes, Toasts, Songs,
Clerihews, and Other Fun!



The Best Event of the Summer!
Register today at www.chesterton.org

Conference Details



CONFERENCE DATES

Thursday, August 2 - Saturday, August 4, 2018

- Registration is open from 1PM – 5PM on Thursday
- The conference begins at 7PM with our Opening Session
- The conference closes with our Closing Banquet on Saturday evening (advance ticket purchase required)
- *A separate conference for the Chesterton Schools Network will take place at the Doubletree on August 5-6. Room rates apply*



LOCATION AND LODGING

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Orlando Airport

5555 Hazeltine National Drive, Orlando, FL 32812

Telephone: (407) 856-0100 | 24-hour airport shuttle available

Special Room Rate for Conference Attendees

- Use group code ACC for special \$119/night room rate
- Be sure to mention the American Chesterton Society when you book your room



CONFERENCE PRICING

Registration is sold in packages and a la carte. We encourage you to purchase the registration packages to save money and to be assured that all of your meals are covered as well as admission to the talks.

PACKAGE PRICING

Includes conference registration, 6 meals, & admission to our annual Closing Banquet

3-Day Non-Member Pricing	\$370.00
3-Day ACS Member Pricing	\$340.00
3-Day Student/Clergy Pricing*	\$295.00

*Faculty and staff from Chesterton Schools Network member schools are eligible for this discount.

A LA CARTE PRICING

One-Day Tickets are available for purchase at the door as seating allows. We are unable to pre-sell One-Day tickets. *Please note that membership, student, or clergy discounts do not apply for One-Day tickets.*

Closing Banquet. A la carte registration does not include banquet tickets. Tickets to the banquet are sold separately for \$85/ticket and do not qualify for member discounts.

Meal plans may be purchased a la carte. See details at right.

MEAL PACKAGE DETAILS

A 6-meal package of catered meals at the hotel is available for \$125/person (tax included). It may be purchased as part of the complete conference registration package or a la carte. Make your selection when you register online for conference.

The meal package includes:

- Thursday night dinner
- All meals on Friday
- Breakfast and lunch on Saturday

How it works. You will receive a meal ticket good for one plate for each meal of the weekend. Meals are served buffet-style in the same area of the hotel as the talks, making meals both inexpensive and convenient. **Meal package must be purchased ahead of time; we are unable to sell meals on site.**

Please note: Saturday night banquet tickets are sold separately and cost \$85/per person. *Purchase your tickets in advance as seating is limited for this memorable evening of fun!*

We are unable to issue refunds for any conference item (registration, meals, banquet tickets, or vendor tables) at any time.

For more information, please contact the American Chesterton Society toll free at 800-343-2425

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Speaker Bios in order of appearance



Dale Ahlquist is President of the American Chesterton Society and has written, edited, or contributed to nearly twenty books on G. K. Chesterton. He is a Senior Fellow of the Chesterton Library at Oxford and has given hundreds of talks to audiences all over the world. Dale is the co-founder of Chesterton Academy, a private Catholic high school in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

His pioneering work in classical, integrated education is capturing the minds of parents across the country through the growing Chesterton Schools Network.



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

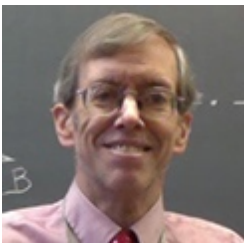
President of the Central Florida Chesterton Society and lives outside of Orlando with his wife, six children, eight goats, and thirty chickens.



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.



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, Campion College in Sydney, Australia.



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.



Kevin O'Brien is the founder and artistic director of The Theater of the Word Incorporated, which tours the country evangelizing through drama. He is also well known for his work on EWTN. His new book, *An Actor Bows*, the story of his conversion and incredible life in show business, is now available from ACS Press.



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



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



Liza Levina graduated from Russian State University for the Humanities in Moscow, Russia. A doctoral student at the University of Southern California, Liza is interested in fictional countries in literature and cinema, Russian poetry of the Silver Age, and languages and cultures of Serbia, Croatia and Poland.



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, Nebraska.



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.



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 Senior Editor at the Augustine Institute.



Speaker Bios

Break-Out Sessions



Vicki Darkey runs the Western Pennsylvania Chesterton Society. She serves as the official liaison for the local Chesterton Societies in the United States.



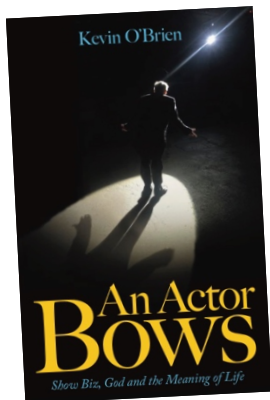
Gellert Dornay was raised as a cradle Catholic and introduced to Chesterton at an early age. He spent his entrepreneurial career wrestling between faith and meaningful engagement in our political economy and after 25 years found the answer. He and his wife Elizabeth homeschool their 10 kids in the Seattle,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



Emily de Rotstein is the Executive Director of Chesterton Academy in Edina, Minnesota. She helped launch the Chesterton Schools Network in 2013 and leads member schools through the phases of school start-up and implementation.



David Treadway is a producer, director, actor and writer. He has been performing on stage since his early teens and has performed throughout the United States and in six foreign countries. A convert to Catholicism, he was received into the Catholic Church in July of 2014. He and his wonderful wife, Susie, live in St. Louis, Missouri, with their Chihuahuas, Oscar and Freddie.



Special Conference Book-Signing

Join us Friday evening for a book-signing event for *An Actor Bows*, a new autobiography by Kevin O'Brien, published by ACS Books! The book release date coincides with the American Chesterton Society conference and will be available for the first time there. The book-signing will take place following Kevin O'Brien and Dave Treadway's performance of the C.S. Lewis & J.R.R. Tolkien play, *I Call You Friends*.



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