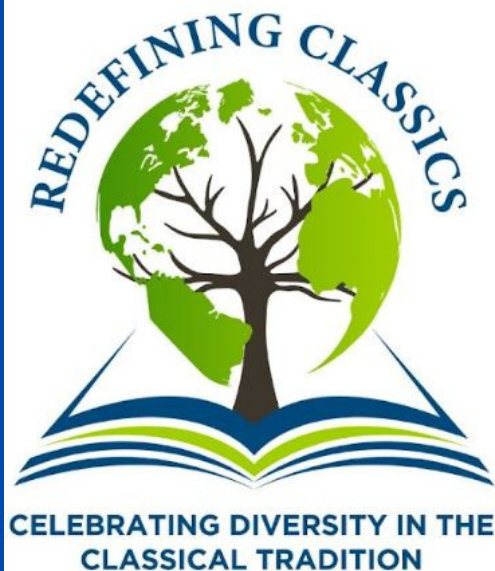


May 11 - Join Us!

'Conversations about Redefining Classics'

An introduction to the
"Redefining Classics" Gathering



Join us for an exciting all-day **virtual** event to "wet your appetite" for the June 15th gathering! Learn more about the upcoming "Redefining Classics" Gathering and meet our key note speakers. Attendees will have the opportunity to converse with scholars that will share short talks and answer questions. See you there!

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Meet Our Amazing Speakers



Onyema Nweze

Onyema Nweze, Ed.D., Nova Southeastern University. Dr. Nweze worked as a public-school educator for 30 years, beginning as a high school English teacher in 1993. In 2017, she stepped away from the public-school system to study the effects of liberal learning on teachers of The MacMillan Academy, and currently serves as The MacMillan Institute's Senior Curriculum Consultant.



Claudia MacMillan

Claudia MacMillan, Ph.D., University of Dallas. Dr. MacMillan began teaching in a private school in 1981 and has taught and served administratively in secondary education and at the university level. Since 2004, she has been in non-profits, educating public school educators to teach all children in the "spirit of liberal learning." Her non-profit, The MacMillan Institute, is dedicated to educators serving historically marginalized students in Southern Dallas County.

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Speaker Bios

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Speaker Bios



Bettina De Guzman

Bettina Joy de Guzman is a multi-instrumentalist, educator, and Classicist who composes music inspired by research of ancient cultures, especially Ancient Greek music and poetry. She has been invited to lecture, sing authentic ancient poetry, and play historical instruments in various universities and museums, internationally. As Regent's Fellow in University of California in Irvine, she taught Ancient Greek and Roman history as well as mythology. A book she edited, *Ancient Greek Lyre: Learning Method*, by Nikos Xanthoulis (Artistic Consultant of National Greek Opera), was shortlisted for Good Life category of Greek Public Book Awards in June 2019. As President of California Classical Association South, she organizes panels twice a year. She is co-creator and host of Cosmote TV, History Channel, "Ancient Greek Culture, Now!" which aired January 2021-January 2023 in Greece. She was both a 2021-2022 Associate and Grant recipient, and Visiting Artist, for The Center for Hellenic Studies at Harvard University. Her music recordings and video performances have been shown in Classics courses as part of lecture enrichment and supplementary material.

Her background includes performance and study of Polynesian, Mideastern, and Bharatanatyam dances. She has Bachelor's degrees in Psychology, English, Music, and Classics. She has 60 musical instruments at home that she plays, some more than others, including a 1920s petite grand pedal harp and a rare upright grand piano.

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Speaker Bios



Sheena Mason

Sheena Michele Mason is an assistant professor of English at SUNY Oneonta. She holds a PhD with distinction in English literature from Howard University in Washington, DC, USA, and specializes in Africana and American literature studies and philosophy of race. She is published with Oxford University Press, Palgrave MacMillan, Cambridge University Press, and the University of Warsaw among other presses. She is the innovator of the theory of racelessness and founder of Theory of Racelessness, an educational firm. Her book *The Raceless Antiracist: Why Ending Race Is the Future of Antiracism* shows how ending our belief in “race” and practice of racialization is required toward the goal of ending the causes and effects of racialized dehumanization.

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Verónica A. Gutiérrez

A historian who specializes in the origins of Mexican Catholicism, Verónica A. Gutiérrez, MFA, PhD, has spent her career challenging myths associated with native peoples of the Americas. She currently serves as founding Professor of History at Hildegard College and as founding Director of the Great Books Program en español for the Angelicum Academy, offering online Socratic discussions in Spanish. An award-winning scholar and sought-after speaker, she has delivered a TEDx talk, co-led a faculty development tour to Mexico, provided keynotes in the U.S. and Mexico, and published in English and Spanish. Her current projects include identifying indigenous voices from Latin America that speak into the Great Conversation and writing a children’s chapter book about sixteenth-century Nahua visionary Juan Diego for Ignatius Press’s popular Vision Series.

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Speaker Bios



Shana O'Connell

Dr. Shana O'Connell is a Master Instructor in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies at Howard University. Her work on Roman wall painting in the Eastern Mediterranean (Israel; Turkey) has been supported by the Loeb Classical Library of Harvard University, W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem, and the International Catacomb Society. At Howard she teaches Classical Art, Classical Mythology, and has taught Art Appreciation and Slavery in the Ancient World. Additionally, Dr. O'Connell is an artist who is currently captivated by needlework and lives in Washington, DC.



Josh Andrew

Josh Andrew holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from Hillsdale College, and earned his Master of Arts in Educational Studies from the University of Michigan. Mr. Andrew's teaching career began with Teach for America on the westside of Detroit where he taught English at Cody High School. In 2016, he joined the faculty at Atlanta Classical Academy, and over the last eight years, he's worked as a department chair, the Academic Dean, the Upper School Principal, and now Head of School. He also teaches Modern European Literature to seniors. Mr. Andrew has written about education in The Atlantic, NPR, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, and the Detroit News.

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Junius Johnson

Junius Johnson is a writer, teacher, speaker, independent scholar, and musician. His work focuses on beauty, imagination, and wonder, and how these are at play in the Christian and Classical intellectual traditions. He is the executive director of Junius Johnson Academics, through which he offers innovative classes for both children and adults that aim to ignite student hearts with wonder and intellectual rigor. An avid devotee of story, he is especially drawn to fantasy, science fiction, and young adult fiction. He performs professionally on the french horn and electric bass. He holds a BA from Oral Roberts University (English Lit), an MAR from Yale Divinity School (Historical Theology), and an MA, two MPhils, and a PhD (Philosophical Theology) from Yale University. He is the author of 5 books, including *The Father of Lights: A Theology of Beauty*, and *On Teaching Fairy Stories*. An engaging speaker and teacher, he is a frequent guest contributor to blogs and podcasts on faith and culture. He is co-host of *The Classical Mind* podcast and is a member of *The Cultivating Project*.

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Erica Robles Anderson

Erica Robles Anderson is a cultural historian. Her work centers on tradition, narrative, and innovation. Erica is currently completing a three-book project on transformations in households, schools, and religious organizations from the postwar era to the present.

Classical education plays a remarkable role in this history, coordinating across a diverse network of actors and institutions at several scales. Erica is an Associate Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication at New York University. She holds a Ph.D. in

Communication and a B.S. in Symbolic Systems, both from Stanford University. While there, she participated in a residential Great Books program known as “Structured Liberal Education.” She is currently a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS), and the editor-in chief of the award-winning journal, *Public Culture*.

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Dr. Ashley Rogers Berner

Ashley Berner is Director of the Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy and Associate Professor of Education. She served previously as the Deputy Director of the CUNY Institute for Education Policy and as an administrator at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, University of Virginia. Palgrave MacMillan released *Pluralism and American Public Education: No One Way to School* (2017), and Harvard Education Press released her new book, *Educational Pluralism and American Democracy: How to Handle Indoctrination, Promote Exposure, and Rebuild America's Schools*, in April 2024.

Dr. Berner has published articles, book chapters, op-eds, and a widely watched TedX talk on citizenship formation, academic outcomes, pluralism, and the political theories of education in different national contexts. She led the design of the Institute's School Culture 360™ and ELA and Social Studies Knowledge Maps™. Her teaching experience took place in a Jewish pre-school, an Episcopal secondary school, and an open university in Louisiana; she currently advises doctoral students at Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Berner represents the Institute's work across the country and consults regularly with international, federal, and state-level agencies, non-governmental organizations, and school systems. She held a five-year fellowship at the Center for the Study of Law & Religion at Emory University School of Law and currently serves as an advisor to the Educating for American Democracy project, the Johns Hopkins Undergraduate Debate Program, and CivXNow!'s Research and Best Practices Affinity Group and holds a fellowship at the Mercatus Pluralism and Civil Exchange Program. Dr. Berner holds degrees from Davidson College (Honors A.B.) and from Oxford University (M.Litt. and D.Phil. in Modern History).

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Bryan Whitchurch

Bryan Whitchurch began his path in Classics as an undergraduate at Utah State University. He moved out East for an MAT in Latin and Classical Humanities at UMASS Amherst which led to a rich array of experiences in Boston at the Boston Latin School, NYC at the Brooklyn Latin School, and now DC at the Washington Latin School where he currently serves as the Chair of Classics and in a number of other capacities. He came to Washington Latin immediately following the completion of a Ph.D. in Classical Philology at Fordham University with a dissertation on Ubertino Posculo's Latin epic in Vergilian style about the Fall of Constantinople in 1453. His interests in Classics are centered in questions of reception, the current expression of which have taken the form of how to bring the Classics to the public at large through K-12 schools. This year marks his 18th as an educator.

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Amber O'Neale

Amber O'Neal Johnston is an established authority on infusing diverse voices, cultures, and a love for others into the home environment. She's an author, speaker, and homeschooling mama who shares her observations in various publications and as a coveted speaker at parenting and education conferences. Amber lives in Atlanta, Georgia nestled among pine trees, hammocks, and ziplines with her husband Scott and their four children, and she shares about the beauty of a culturally and socially conscious home environment in her book *A Place to Belong*, a guide for families of all backgrounds hoping to raise kids to celebrate their heritage, community, and the world.

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Dr. David Withun

Dr. David Withun, Ph.D., is the founding Head of School at Ivy Classical Academy in Prattville, Alabama. Dr. Withun has nearly two decades of leadership experience in the military and education. He is a veteran of the United States Army, where he served as an Intelligence Analyst. He earned his MA and Ph.D. in Humanities at Faulkner University in Montgomery, Alabama. Dr. Withun has taught various subjects, including History and Literature, at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. He has also taught college Composition, Humanities, and Literature. His academic interests center broadly on intellectual history, with a particular interest in the influences and responses to ancient, classical, and medieval philosophy and mythology in modern American thought and literature. Dr. Withun's areas of expertise and interest also include African American history and literature, classical education, American intellectual history, and the Great Books tradition. Dr. Withun's writing has been published in journals and magazines such as Classical Reception Journal, Black Perspectives, Phylon, Forma Journal, and The Explicator. His first book, *Co-workers in the Kingdom of Culture: Classics and Cosmopolitanism in the Thought of W. E. B. Du Bois*, was published by Oxford University Press in spring 2022. Dr. Withun currently lives in Prattville, Alabama, with his wife Vanessa and their three children.

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Dr. Christopher Perrin

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 and with the Classical School Leadership master's program at Gordon College. Chris previously served for ten years as a headmaster of a classical Christian school in Harrisburg, PA

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Susie Brooks

Susie is an internationally recognized innovative educator with a demonstrated history of leveraging emerging technologies to improve, engage and educate. Susie is founder and president of Veritas Academy, an accredited private Classical Christian PreK-12 school in North Branch, MN. While she has a doctorate in education, and four masters degrees, she believes that having experienced learning in three different continents gives her a unique perspective on what really matters in student learning. As an educator, Susie has served in different capacities including her previous roles in higher education which include Dean of Graduate Studies, Director of Academic Technology, and Instructional Technology Consultant. In these roles, she provided leadership, management, and vision for the integration of educational technologies into teaching and learning environments, and also established a Center for Teaching and Learning, and served as its director. During that time, she worked in partnership with academic departments and faculty members to lead, advance, and support faculty initiatives that further the educational mission while enhancing faculty's discovery, integration, application, and teaching practices. Her most recent degree in mental health has allowed her to implement preventative strategies for substance use among adolescents, a disorder that is hurting our society today as young people struggle with anxiety and depression without adequate coping skills. But above all, her greatest passion is to participate in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) by walking alongside others and helping them pursue spiritual maturity, spiritual reproduction and spiritual parenting.

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Anika Prather (Host)

Dr. Anika T. Prather earned her B.A. from Howard University in elementary education. She also has earned several graduate degrees in education from New York University and Howard University. She has a Masters in liberal arts from St. John's College (Annapolis) and a PhD in English, Theatre and Literacy Education from the University of Maryland (College Park). Her research focus is on building literacy with African American students through engagement in the books of the Canon and self-published her book *Living in the Constellation of the Canon: The Lived Experiences of African American Students Reading Great Books Literature* recently.

Anika is also the co-author for *The Black Intellectual Tradition* (with Dr. Angel Parham). She has served as a teacher, supervisor for student teachers, director of education and Head of School. She taught in the classics department at Howard University as a full time lecturer and she also served as Director of High Quality Curriculum and Instruction at Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy (until February 2024). Currently she is a sought after speaker on the topic of the relevancy of classical studies to the Black community. In 2015, Anika founded The Living Water School. The Living Water School is a unique Christian school for independent learners, based on the educational philosophies of Classical Education and the Sudbury Model. In the spring of 2022, Anika and Damon opened The Living Water Center where activities for the Living Water School, book talks, and other events are hosted. The Living Water Center (located in Old Town Alexandria) also houses The Blacks in Classics Museum which is open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays for visitors to see original artwork featuring Blacks who have been inspired by classics and the works of the Canon.

Event Schedule

Time Zone is EST for duration of event

Presenter	Time	Topic/Title
Anika, Ashley	9:00am	Opening Conversation: Thoughts on How the Classical Tradition Can Help Us Achieve A Pluralistic Society
The MacMillan Institute (Claudia MacMillan and Onyema)	9:30-10:15am	Unbinding Prometheus: The Spirit of Liberal Learning for All
Sheena	10:30-11:15am	"The Togetherness Wayfinder"
Erica	11:30-12:15pm	"Where Does Change Come From?"
Junius	12:30-1:15pm	"My Dead Friends: A Literary Life."
Veronica	1:30-2:15pm	Thucydides in Tlatelolco, Herodotus in Huejotzingo: Classical Voices in and from the Americas

Event Schedule

Time Zone is EST for duration of event

Presenter	Time	Topic/Title
Susie	2:30-3:15pm	Enduring Faith when Building from Scratch: Classical Christian Education for International Students
Amber	3:30-4:15pm	Diversifying the Feast: Seamlessly introducing culture into a rich education
School Leaders Panel (Josh, Diana, Bryan, Anika and David, Chris [moderator])	4:30-5:30pm	How Classical Education Supports Civil Discourse in Democracy
Shana	6:00-6:45pm	Style in Ancient Art and Empowerment through Visual Analysis"
Bettina	7:00-7:45pm	"Composing and Performing Ancient Music, Internationally, Today"