C.V. Darrell Falconburg
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THE RUSSELL KIRK CENTER FOR CULTURAL RENEWAL

Profile

Darrell Falconburg is an academic program director at a small residential study center and an adjunct professor of the humanities. Interested in furthering the study of the Western cultural heritage and the liberal arts. Experience includes interdisciplinary teaching in literature, history, and philosophy; curriculum development; academic program coordination; and student formation at the secondary and undergraduate levels.

Education

2025 Ph.D. Humanities, concentration in History. Faulkner University
Dissertation: *Russell Kirk: Redeeming the Time Through Liberal Education*
Committee: Benjamin G. Lockerd; Robert M. Woods; Bradley J. Birzer (external reader, Hillsdale College)

2020 M.A. Philosophy, Mount Angel Seminary
Thesis: *Dante Praises Philosophy: Explaining the Presence of Siger of Brabant in the Paradiso*
Advisor: Andrew Cummings

2017 B.A. History, *summa cum laude,* The College of Idaho

Academic Appointments and Experience

2025–present Adjunct Instructor of Humanities, Faulkner University

- *HUM 2315, Western Tradition I* (Spring 2025; Fall 2026; Spring 2027)
  An interdisciplinary survey of ancient and medieval civilization.

2023–present Academic Program Director, Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal

- Designs curriculum for interdisciplinary seminars and virtual courses
- Directs residential study and research fellowship for students and scholars
- Leads in-house seminars and mentors visiting students
- Assists in planning annual conferences and Center publications

Selected Seminars and Courses Developed in Collaboration:

- Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (with Gregory Collins, Yale University)
- The Moral Imagination of Jane Austen (with Leta Sundet, Hillsdale College)
- Flannery O'Connor and the Ethical Life (with Michael Federici, Middle Tennessee State University)

Additional Teaching Experience

2022–2023 Belmont Classical Academy, Curriculum Coordinator and Upper School Teacher

2021–2022 John Paul II High School, Dean of Men and Integrated Humanities Teacher
Service: Faculty Mentor, St. Thomas More House

2020–2021 Bishop Machebeuf High School, Integrated Humanities Teacher

Selected Courses Taught

- *Ancient Humanities*—an ancient literature and history course. Authors read and discussed include Homer, Aeschylus, Thucydides, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Virgil, Livy, Plutarch, and Marcus Aurelius.
- *Medieval Humanities*—a medieval literature and history course. Authors read and discussed include St. John the Evangelist, St. Luke the Evangelist, Athanasius, Augustine, Benedict, Gregory the Great, Boethius, Aquinas, and Dante.
- *Western Heritage: Ancient Greece and Rome*—a history of the ancient world through primary source texts.
- *American Society: Civil War to Cold War*— a history of America through primary source texts
- *Additional Courses Taught*—Introduction to Logic; Grammar and Composition

Publications

Book

- *Guardian of the Word: Russell Kirk and the Renewal of Liberal Education*. Washington, DC: Catholic Education Press (an imprint of the Catholic University of America Press). Forthcoming.

  This book suggests that Russell Kirk (1918-1994) should be remembered as one of the foremost educational writers of the twentieth century and that his humane vision of education deserves greater attention. It traces Kirk's intellectual influences—including those of St. John Henry Newman, T.S. Eliot, and Christopher Dawson—as well as his educational principles and proposals. It also discusses the educational and literary community he led at his home, Piety Hill.

Edited Volume

- Kirk, Russell. *Transmitting the Western Heritage: Selected Educational Writings in National Review*. Introduction by George H. Nash. Edited with Preface by Darrell Falconburg. Mecosta, MI: Mecosta House Press. Forthcoming.

This volume brings together selected essays on the humanities from Kirk's more than twenty-five years of writing for *National Review*. Essays address topics such as liberal learning on a "humane scale," academic freedom, and approaches to renewing secondary and higher education. The volume includes an introduction by historian George H. Nash (Hoover Institution, Stanford University) and my preface.

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

2024 "In Defense of the Humanities: Irving Babbitt, Russell Kirk, and the Humane Tradition." *Humanitas* 37, nos. 1 & 2 (2024): 57-78.

2023 "Russell Kirk on the Moral Imagination and Literary Studies." *Pietas: A Journal of Tradition, Place, and Things Divine* 2, no. 1 (Spring 2023), 51-74.

Selected Public Essays, Commentary, and Reviews

2025 "The Education of the Poet Dante: A Review of *Dante's Education* (Oxford University Press, 2024)." *VoegelinView* (March 2).

2025 "Transmitting Civilization Through Education: A Review of Tracy Lee Simmons' *On Being Civilized* (Memoria College Press, 2023)." *The University Bookman* (February 2).

2024 "Irving Babbitt's Defense of the Humanities." *The University Bookman* (December 29).

2023 "Rediscovering Theodor Haecker: *Virgil, Father of the West*." *VoegelinView* (February 3).

2021 "Dante's Transformed Love: The Poet's Love for Beatrice." *The Imaginative Conservative* (September 6).

2021 "Flannery O'Connor on Sin and Politics." *The Imaginative Conservative* (August 15).

2021 "Dante and the Catholic Intellectual Tradition on Faith and Reason." *The Homiletic and Pastoral Review* (July 15).

2021 "Russell Kirk and Flannery O'Connor on the Spiritual Foundation of Political Reform." *VoegelinView* (June 28).

2020 "Follow the Gaze: Beatrice's Eyes and Beauty in the *Divine Comedy*." *VoegelinView* (December 22).

2020 "Ideas Still Have Consequences: Richard Weaver on Nominalism and Relativism." *The Imaginative Conservative* (December 6).

2020 "The Way of Beauty in Dante." *Dappled Things* Online. *Deep Down Things* (September 15).

2017 "Who Reads Robert Nisbet Anymore?" *The Imaginative Conservative* (August 15).

Book in Progress

- *Redeeming the Modern World: Christopher Dawson, T.S. Eliot, and the Renewal of Culture*

  This book examines the complementary visions of religion and culture developed by Catholic historian Christopher Dawson (1889–1970) and Anglo-Catholic poet T. S. Eliot (1888–1965). Responding to the crisis of the twentieth century, both understood Christianity as a living spiritual force that had historically shaped Western civilization and that could continue to guide its development.

Journal Articles and Book Chapters in Progress

- "The Need for Religious Roots: Christopher Dawson, Flannery O'Connor, and the Crisis of Culture" — sent to journal

  This article explores the intellectual affinity between historian Christopher Dawson and fiction writer Flannery O'Connor in their responses to the secularization of modern culture. Reading Dawson's historical writings alongside O'Connor's "The Displaced Person," it examines their shared criticism of materialism and their understanding of Christianity as a source of cultural renewal and a foundation for human dignity in the West.

- "T.S. Eliot and Liberal Education" — drafting

  Although T.S. Eliot is widely recognized as a poet and literary critic, his educational ideas have received comparatively little attention. This article explores his educational vision, highlighting its affinity with Christopher Dawson's thought and arguing that it offered a prescient response to the challenges facing modern education. Particular attention is given to G.H. Bantock's book-length study, *T. S. Eliot and Education*.

- "Russell Kirk and the Humanizing Purpose of Liberal Education." — under peer review

  This is an invited chapter for an upcoming volume, *Prospects for Intellectual Conservatism in the Tradition of Russell Kirk and Roger Scruton*, edited by Ferenc Hörcher (Ludovika University of Public Service in Hungary) and Daniel Pitt (University of Buckingham). The chapter

examines Kirk as a humane educational thinker and considers his intellectual affinity with Sir Roger Scruton.

Editing Experience

2024-present Humanities Editor, *The University Bookman*, the book review journal of the Russell Kirk Center

2022-present Assistant Managing Editor, *VoegelinView*, an interdisciplinary arts and humanities journal published by the Eric Voegelin Society

Academic Awards and Fellowships

2025-26 *Law and Liberty Fellowship*, Liberty Fund. Invited participant in a two-part seminar series on the American constitutional tradition.

2023-24 *Richard M. Weaver Fellowship*. Fellowship and scholarship awarded by the Intercollegiate Studies Institute for doctoral students in the humanities or social sciences.

2023 *Wilbur Fellowship*. Residential fellowship at the Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal in Mecosta, Michigan. June 4 – July 23.

2020 *St. Anselm Award*. Academic Excellence in the College of Liberal Arts at Mount Angel Seminary

2017 *Academic Scarab Award*. Academic Excellence as a student at the College of Idaho

2015-16 *Frank Specht Award*. Academic Excellence in the History Department as an undergraduate at the College of Idaho (twice awarded)

Scholarly Papers and Presentations at Conferences

2027 Panelist and Panel Chair, "T.S. Eliot and Education: G.H. Bantock as Interpreter and Critic." *The Ciceronian Society* Annual Conference. March 11 – 13, 2027. Forthcoming.

2026 Panelist, "The Displaced Person: Flannery O'Connor and Christopher Dawson on Religion and Culture." *The Academy of Philosophy and Letters* Annual Conference. June 4 – 6, 2026.

2026 Moderator, "Roundtable on Teaching the Virtues." *The Ciceronian Society* Annual Conference. March 12 – 14, 2026.

2025 Panelist, "Russell Kirk's Vision of Liberal Education." International Academic Conference on the Anglo-American Conservative Intellectual Tradition. *Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation*. Grand Rapids, MI. June 27 – 28, 2025.

2025 Panelist, "Flannery O'Connor and the Problem of Ideology." *The Academy of Philosophy and Letters* Annual Conference. June 5-7, 2025.

2025 Panelist, "Christian Humanism and Liberal Education." *The Ciceronian Society* Annual Conference. March 13-15, 2025.

2024 Panelist, "In Defense of the Humanities: Irving Babbitt and Educational Renewal." *The Academy of Philosophy and Letters* Annual Conference. June 6 – 8, 2024.

2024 Panel Chair, "The Aesthetics of the Ideal and the Real." *The Academy of Philosophy and Letters* Annual Conference. June 6 – 8, 2024.

2024 Panelist, "The Need for Roots." Panel on "Russell Kirk's *The Roots of American Order* at 50." *Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and Politics* at Calvin University. April 4 – 6, 2024.

2024 Panelist, "A Philosophical Habit of Mind: John Henry Newman, Russell Kirk, and Liberal Education." *The Ciceronian Society* Annual Conference. February 28 – March 2, 2024.

2023 Panelist, "Education and the Permanent Things: Russell Kirk on the Renewal of American Schools." *The Academy of Philosophy and Letters* Annual Conference. June 1 – 3, 2023.

Invited Presentations

2027 Speaker, "Russell Kirk's Vision of Liberal Education." Invited lecture to the Graduate School of Classical Education at Hillsdale College. Spring Semester. Forthcoming.

2027 Moderator, "Traditionalist Fiction in a Fallen World: Russell Kirk and Evelyn Waugh." Online Public Lecture by Alex Taylor (Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary) and Camilo Peralta (Joliet Junior College). *The Russell Kirk Center*. January 26. Forthcoming.

2026 Speaker, "The Many Roots of American Order." Invited online lecture to undergraduate students from participating universities. *Advancing American Freedom*. September 25, 2026.

2026 Speaker, "Transmitting an Inheritance: Education in an Age of Revolution." Invited to lead a breakout session at the *Circe Institute* National Conference. July 16 – 18, 2026.

2025 Speaker, "The Role of Education in Society." William F. Buckley Jr. at 100 Conference. *Acton Institute*. Grand Rapids, MI. October 23, 2025.

2025 Moderator, "An Evening with Christopher Dawson: Introducing a Historian of Culture." Online Public Lecture by Joseph T. Stuart (University of Mary in Bismarck, ND). *The Russell Kirk Center*. September 2, 2025.

2025 Speaker, "Cultivating the Moral Imagination Through the Humanities." Invited to lead a breakout session at the *Southeastern Consortium of Classical Educators*. August 1 – 2, 2025.

2025 Speaker, "John Senior's *The Restoration of Christian Culture*." Invited to lead a colloquy at the *Circe Institute* National Conference. July 16 – 19, 2025.

2024 Speaker, "The Teacher as Guardian of the Word." Invited to lead a colloquy at the *Circe Institute* National Conference. July 17 – 20, 2024.

Professional Memberships

2023-present The Academy of Philosophy and Letters
2023-present The T.S. Eliot Society
2024-present The Ciceronian Society