

Ben Merkle – BIO

Dr. Ben Merkle, fellow of theology and President of New Saint Andrews College, holds a D.Phil. in Oriental Studies and an M.St. in Jewish Studies from Oxford University, England. Dr. Merkle is the author of *The White Horse King: The Life of Alfred the Great* and *Defending the Trinity in the Reformed Palatinate: The Elohistae*. Dr. Merkle is a minister at Christ Church, Moscow. He has taught New Saint Andrews for over a decade, and in 2015, Dr. Merkle was promoted to the office of President. He and his wife Bekah have five children.

Len Munsil – BIO

Len Munsil is the 6th President of Arizona Christian University, a regionally accredited non-denominational Christian liberal arts university in Phoenix, Arizona founded in 1960.

Under his leadership, which began September 27, 2010, the school has changed its name, raised its visibility, expanded its course offerings and majors, undertaken campus renovations and building projects and experienced huge enrollment gains. ACU seeks to attract students who will “transform culture with truth” – building biblical influence in every corner of society. Munsil is a third-generation Arizonan and has an accomplished record as a public policy expert, a conservative organizational entrepreneur, a lawyer, a journalist, an educator and a writer. He served as an Adjunct Professor and member of the Board of Trustees at ACU, then known as Southwestern College, beginning in 1994.

In 2006, Munsil won the Republican nomination for Governor of Arizona, entering the race late and coming from far behind to upset the most famous name in Arizona political history – Goldwater – while receiving more than 51 percent of the vote in a four-way primary. In the general election, he received more than half a million votes but lost to incumbent Janet Napolitano.

Munsil served for a decade as Founding President and General Counsel for The Center for Arizona Policy, a nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy organization. He presided over CAP’s rapid growth into one of the largest and most powerful state public policy organizations in the United States. For his work on behalf of children, families and biblical truth, he has received awards and commendations from Focus on the Family, American Family Association, National Family Legal Foundation, Arizonans for Home Education, the National Association for Marriage Enhancement, Center for Arizona Policy and other organizations. Prior to joining CAP, for more than a decade he trained prosecutors and city attorneys, testified before legislatures and city councils as an expert witness, authored one book and co-authored another, and drafted legal briefs to courts including the United States Supreme Court to help protect children, families and communities from the negative effects of sexually oriented businesses.

Munsil earned his Juris Doctor from Arizona State University’s Sandra Day O’Connor College of

Law, and has been admitted to practice in state and federal courts since 1988. He served a judicial clerkship for the Honorable Daniel Manion of the United States Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit. He earned his Bachelor's Degree from the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Telecommunication, where he was named Outstanding Journalism Graduate and served as Editor in Chief of ASU's daily newspaper, the State Press. He began his writing career as a sportswriter for the Scottsdale Daily Progress from 1981 to 1985. He was selected the Rocky Mountain Collegiate Press Association's Journalist of the Year in 1983, winning a live, 6-hour writing competition against hundreds of top collegiate journalists from more than 20 western states. He is a 1997 inductee into the Scottsdale Community College Journalism Hall of Honor. Len and his wife Tracy have eight children and reside in Scottsdale. Dr. Tracy Munsil earned her Master's Degree and her Ph.D. in Political Science from Arizona State University, where she taught full-time in the School of Politics and Global Studies. Dr. Munsil is now an Associate Professor of Political Science at Arizona Christian University, and also chaired the Liberal Arts task force. Like her husband, she is a former Outstanding Journalism Graduate at ASU, and Editor of the State Press. She home educated for 14 years.

Their oldest son Will played baseball and earned his bachelor's degree from Colorado Christian University, and his Juris Doctor from ASU. He taught history and was head high school football and baseball coach for Scottsdale Preparatory Academy High School for four years, and now is an adjunct professor and assistant football coach at ACU. Their oldest daughter Leigh followed her parents as Editor of ASU's State Press, was a reporter for the Dallas Morning News, and now writes for Politico in Washington D.C. Their daughter Anne played basketball and was the Outstanding Scholar Athlete and Outstanding Graduate in Biblical Studies at Arizona Christian, and now attends the O'Connor College of Law at ASU. Their son Michael studied History and played football at Tabor College in Hillsboro, Kansas, and transferred to play for ACU's first football team in 2014. Their daughter Laura graduated with honors from Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT with a Film Studies and History double major and now works in New York City as a development assistant for Original Media. Their daughter Ellen is a cadet and member of the competitive speech and debate team at the United States Air Force Academy, Class of 2016. Their daughter Kaye plays basketball and studies political science at Arizona Christian University. Their son Matt graduated with honors from Scottsdale Preparatory Academy High School in 2014, where he was a National Merit Finalist, and an all-state athlete in football, basketball and baseball. He will resume his academic and athletic career in fall 2015 after a "gap year."