

David C. Downing

Co-Director of the Marion E. Wade Center
Co-holder of the Marion E. Wade Chair of Christian Thought
Wheaton College
Wheaton, Illinois
cslewis.com (blog sponsored by Harper Collins)

EDUCATION

B. A. Westmont College, 1973 (English, valedictorian)
M. A. University of California at Los Angeles, 1975 (English)
Ph. D. University of California at Los Angeles, 1977 (English, Chancellor's Fellow)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1974-1977 Graduate Teaching Fellow, UCLA
1977-1983 Assistant Professor of English, Westmont College
1983-1989 Associate Professor of English, Westmont College
1989-1994 Professor of English, Westmont College
1994-1997 Visiting Assistant Professor of English, Elizabethtown College
1997-2003 Associate Professor of English, Elizabethtown College
2001-2018 R. W. Schlosser Professor of English, Elizabethtown College
2018- Co-Director (with Crystal Downing), Marion E. Wade Center, Wheaton College

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Paul F. Ford Award for Excellence in Lewis Scholarship and Teaching, Southern California C. S. Lewis Society, 2020
- Seven merit awards for Teaching, Campus Service, or Professional Development at Elizabethtown College
- Elizabethtown College Senior Merit Awards, 2008, 2014
- R. W. Schlosser Chair of English (endowed faculty chair), 2001-2018
- Mentor, Emergent Scholars Banquet, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017
- 2001 Clyde S. Kilby Research Grant, Marion E. Wade Center, Wheaton, Illinois
- See book awards under PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS
- Teacher of the Year, Westmont College, 1980, 1990
- Chancellor's Fellow (top scholarship offered in the UC graduate school system), UCLA, 1973-1977
- Valedictorian, Westmont College, Santa Barbara, 1973

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS & INTERVIEWS

"The Relevance of Prince Caspian," National Review podcast, Hillsdale College, June 2023

C. S. Lewis on Writers and Writing. HarperOne, 2022.

- Recommended in a review, "Want to Put Something into Writing? Read these Books," *New York Times*, Feb 23, 2023
- Recommended on the *New York Times* BestSellers page, March 12, 2023
- #1 Bestseller on Amazon's "General Books and Reading" category

Introduction and Annotations: *The Wade Annotated Edition of C. S. Lewis's Dymer*. InterVarsity, 2020.

Essay: "Descent and Reascent: Journeys to the Underworld in C. S. Lewis." In *The Inklings and Culture*. Ed. by Monika Hilder, Sara L. Pearson, and Laura N. Van Dyke. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2020. Pp. 35-41.

Essay: "Remembering C. S. Lewis." In *Chronicles: A Magazine of American Culture*. November 2020, 22-23.

Online Book Group: "The Lord of the Rings" (co-hosted weekly with Laura Schmidt, Wade Center Archivist), June 25-July 30, 2020.

Book: Co-Editor and Preface, *C. S. Lewis: The Reading Life*. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2019.

Essay: "Is Mary Jane?: Mary Neylan as the Model for Jane Studdock in *That Hideous Strength*" *Seven*, Volume 36 (2019). <https://journals.wheaton.edu/index.php/vii/article/view/595>

Presentations, 2019-2020

- "C. S. Lewis and Mysticism." Holy Cross Anglican Church, Brookfield, WI. September 9, 2019.
- "The Wizard, the Witch, and the Ticket Master." Petovsky, Michigan, September 21, 2019.
- "C.S. Lewis's Journey to Faith." Elgin Covenant Church; Elgin, IL. October 14, 2019.
- "The Great Divorce: Last Chance for Lost Souls." Wade Center, November 1, 2019.
- "Lewis and Sayers: A Feisty Friendship." Hutchmoot, Franklin, Tennessee, Nov. 11, 2019.
- "Mere Christianity: An Accidental Classic." Pres. Heritage Center, Montreat, NC. Nov. 6, 2019.
- "When is a Dragon more than a Dragon?" Wade Center, November 17, 2019.

Podcast: <https://www.wheaton.edu/listen/wade-center-podcast/>

Since December 2018, Crystal and I have hosted fortnightly podcasts on our Wade authors with more than 100,000 listens in over 120 countries. We have hosted well-known figures such as Douglas Gresham, C. S. Lewis's stepson, Andrew Peterson, Philip Yancey, and Max McLean, eminent Inklings scholars such as Malcolm Guite, Michael Ward, Hal Poe, Sorina Higgins, and Diana Pavlac Glyer, as well as distinguished members of the Wheaton College faculty.

Presentation: "Frenemies: C. S. Lewis and T. S. Eliot." F. W. Ewbank Colloquium, Taylor University, June 2018

Article: "Transcending Ourselves: C. S. Lewis on Learning." *Christian History*, Vol. 113 (Spring 2016), 34-37.

Podcast and recorded CD: "Annotating C. S. Lewis's Most Obscure Book," Mars Hill Audio, March 20, 2016

Online Article: "When Myth Became Fact and Men Became Mythmakers," Patheos.com. March 9, 2016.

Invited speaker: “C. S. Lewis and Philosophy,” OneLife Seminar, Lancaster, March 2, 2016.

Essay: “The Pilgrim’s Paradox,” in *Women and C. S. Lewis*. Ed. By Carolyn Curtis. Oxford: Lion Hudson Press, 2015. Pp. 27-33.

Essay: “Foreword.” *C. S. Lewis’s List: The Ten Books that Influenced Him Most*. Ed. By David Werther. Oxford: Bloomsbury Academic Press, 2015.

Invited Speaker: “C. S. Lewis on War & Peace,” C. S. Lewis Festival, Petoskey, MI, Oct. 23, 2015.

Invited speaker: “C. S. Lewis and T. S. Eliot: The Books that Launched their Literary Careers,” Houston House, University of Pennsylvania, Oct. 3, 2015.

Invited speaker: “The Narnia Chronicles and the Man Behind Them” (Talk and book signings)

- New Cumberland Public Library Book Club, January 13, 2015
- C. S. Lewis college course, Lancaster Bible College, Lancaster, PA, March 4, 2015

Book: Critical Introduction and Annotations: *The Pilgrim’s Regress by C. S. Lewis: Wade Annotated Edition*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, September 2014.

Invited speaker: “Journey to Joy.” Banquet, lecture & book signing, Wheaton College, September 19, 2014.

Lecture and book-signing: “Lewis vs. Tolkien on Faith and Fantasy.”

- The Rabbit and Dragonfly. Jan 14, 2014.
- Lebanon Valley Lecture Series, Dec 5, 2013.

Essay: “Beauty is in the ‘I’ of the Beholder: A Critique of Lewis’s Aesthetic Theories in *The Abolition of Man*.” In *C. S. Lewis and the Arts*. Ed by Rod Miller. Baltimore: Square Halo Books, 2013.

Lecture and book signing: “The Sources of *Looking for the King*,” Philadelphia C. S. Lewis Society, July 28, 2013.

Invited speaker: “The Inklings as a Model of Creative Community,” Elizabethtown College Board of Trustees, March 27, 2013.

Invited plenary speaker: “Journey to Joy: C. S. Lewis and *The Pilgrim’s Regress*.” F. W. Ewbank Colloquium, Taylor University, June 2012.

Essay: “Dantean Echoes in *A Grief Observed*.” In *Paradox and Persona*. Ed. by Suzanne Bray. Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2012.

Essay: “C. S. Lewis’s Unfinished ‘Easley Fragment’ and his Unfinished Journey.” *Seven: An Anglo-American Literary Review*. October 2011.

Invited speaker and panel judge: “Questions of Identity: C. S. Lewis and the Inklings.” University of Lille, France, June 2-3, 2011.

Invited seminar leader: “Theology in the Fiction of C. S. Lewis.” Regent College, Vancouver, B. C., July 25-29, 2011.

Novel: *Looking for the King: An Inklings Novel*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2010. Revised paperback edition, 2013. www.lookingfortheKing.com

C. S. Lewis blog: Click on “David Downing” at CSLewis.com, a website sponsored by Harper Collins

- “Tolkien vs. Lewis on Faith and Fantasy,” November 2012
- “C. S. Lewis as Atheist Turned Apostle,” June 2012
- “*That Hideous Strength*: Marriage, Merlin, and Mayhem,” May 2012
- “*Perelandra*: Re-awakening the Spiritual Imagination,” April 2012
- “Out of the Silent Planet: Cosmic Voyage as Spiritual Pilgrimage,” March 2012
- “Lewis’s Lost Translation of *The Aeneid*,” April 2011
- “Interview on *Looking for the King*,” Jan 2011
- “The Art of the Thank You Note,” December 2010
- “How C. S. Lewis ‘Prefutes’ Stephen Hawking,” Sept 2010
- “The Sound and Savor of Words,” July 2010
- “A Mentor by Mail” January,” 2010
- “A Picture-Perfect Look at the Inklings’ Oxford,” July 2009
- “Parables for Pilgrims,” November 2008
- “Prince Caspian: Dialog in the Lobby,” May 2008
- “Making Righteousness Readable,” March 2008
- “Word-pictures for the Word Made Flesh,” November 2007

Article: “The Science is Fiction but the Faith is Real” in *Mere Christians: Encounters with C. S. Lewis*. Ed. by Mary Anne Phemister and Andrew Lazo. Grand Rapids: Baker Book, 2009.

Invited speaker and book-signing: “Dissidents in the Confederacy”

- The Civil War Center, Richmond, Virginia, September 13, 2011.
- Shippensburg Civil War Round Table, January 9, 2010
- Gettysburg Battlefield Museum, June 29, 2009
- The National Civil War Museum, Harrisburg, PA, January 16, 2008
- Elizabethtown Masonic Lodge, March 15, 2008
- Harrisburg Civil War Round Table, April 25, 2008
- High Library, Elizabethtown College, October 17, 2007

Imaginative Essay: “A Tribute to Walter Hooper,” *Seven: An Anglo-American Literary Review* 26 (2009), 2-4.

Book: *A South Divided: Portraits of Dissent in the Confederacy*. Nashville: Cumberland Press, 2007.

Essay: “Bedtime Stories and Lifetime Stories.” In *The Lion and the Land of Narnia*. Ed. by Robert Cording. Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 2008.

Article: “C. S. Lewis and the Region of Awe,” *Conversations: A Forum for Authentic Transformation*. Vol. 6:1 (Summer 2008), 64-68.

Invited speaker and booksigning: “The Narnia Chronicles: The Books and the Films”

- Maryland C. S. Lewis Society, Frederick, MD, September 6, 2008
- Elizabethtown College Literati Club & InterVarsity Club, November 20, 2008
- “C. S. Lewis in the 21st Century,” University of Wisconsin, Madison, January 26, 2008
- “Conference on Faith and Imagination,” Vancouver, B. C., October 12, 2007
- Wildwood Writers Festival, Harrisburg, PA, April 13, 2007

Book chapters: "Rehabilitating H. G. Wells: *Out of the Silent Planet*"; "*Perelandra*: A Tale of Paradise Retained"; "*That Hideous Strength*: Spiritual Wickedness in High Places." In *C. S. Lewis: Life, Works, and Legacy*. Ed. by Bruce L. Edwards. Westport, CT: Praeger Publishing, 2007.

Interview/podcasts: "The Spiritual Journey of C. S. Lewis" and "C. S. Lewis and the Narnia Chronicles." [Two half-hour radio interview/podcasts with Brent Siddall of Trans World Radio in London. April 2007.]

Keynote speaker: "Faith and the World We Live In," Annual Conference, Montreal, Oct 14-16, 2006.

Book chapter: "The Lion, The Witch, and the Wastebasket: Discarded Fragments of the Narnia Chronicles." In *Beyond Aslan: Essays on C. S. Lewis*. Ed. by Burton K. James. Gainesville, FL: Bridge-Logos, 2006.

Essay: "The Uses of Fantasy." *Knowing and Doing: The Journal of the C. S. Lewis Institute*. Ed. by Thomas Tarrants. January 2006.

Book: *Into the Wardrobe: C. S. Lewis and the Narnia Chronicles*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2005.

Invited speaker: "Elizabeth Van Lew: Richmond Belle and Union Spy," Harrisburg Rotary Club, May 2005.

Book: *Into the Region of Awe: Mysticism in C. S. Lewis*. Chicago: InterVarsity Press, 2005.

Invited speaker: "The Face Above All Worlds: C. S. Lewis and Mystical Theology." The F. W. Ewbank Colloquium, Taylor University, Upland, Indiana, March 12-14, 2004.

Invited speaker: Keynote address, The New York C. S. Lewis Society's Annual Symposium, New York, New York, Aug 8, 2003.

Presentation: "History as Story in the Biographies of C. S. Lewis." Time and Eternity Conference, St. Catherine's College, Oxford University, July 17, 2002.

Book: *The Most Reluctant Convert: C. S. Lewis's Journey to Faith*. Chicago, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2002.

Book chapter: "Science Fiction." In *Reading the Classics with C. S. Lewis*. Ed. by Thomas L. Martin. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2000.

Article: "From Ogre to Buffoon: Robert Capron in *The Magician's Nephew*." *CSL: The Bulletin of the New York C. S. Lewis Society* 31:12 (Dec 2000), 1-6.

Article: "'The Torch of Civilization': C. S. Lewis on War and Peace." *The Canadian C. S. Lewis Journal* (Spring 1999), 13-31. Rpt. in *Christianity Today Online*.

General Editor: *Elizabethtown College: The First One Hundred Years*, 1999.

Article: "The Discarded Mage: Lewis the Scholar-Novelist on Merlin's Moral Taint." *Christian Scholars Review*. 27:4 (Summer 1998), 406-415.

Article: "The Dungeon of His Soul: Lewis's Unfinished 'Quest of Bleheris.'" *Seven: An Anglo-American Literary Review* 15 (1998), 37-54.

Invited Panelist: Annual Conference of the Mythopoeic Society, Chicago, July 16-19, 1998.

- Article: "From Pillar to Post-modernism: C. S. Lewis and Current Critical Discourse," *Christianity and Literature* 46 (Winter 1997), 169-178. Rpt. *Books and Culture* (December 1998), 36-38.
- Article: "Salem Revisited: Demons, Deceit, or Disorder?" *Books and Culture* (January 1997), 17-20. Broadcast in part on "Breakpoint" (Charles Colson's radio program), October 31, 1997.
- Article: "Subcreation or Smuggled Theology?: Tolkien contra Lewis on Writing Fantasy." *The Canadian C. S. Lewis Journal* (Spring 1996), 24-34.
- Invited Speaker: "C. S. Lewis and Current Critical Discourse," Modern Language Association, Chicago, December 30, 1995.
- Invited Speaker: "Learning in Wartime." World War II: Crusade and Legacy. Marshall College, Huntington, W. Va., May 24, 1995.
- Invited Speaker: "Logos and Logres in Arthurian Literature." Conference on the Fantastic Imagination. Wheaton College, September 1994.
- Invited Seminar Leader: "Chance or the Dance?" Queens' College, Cambridge, England, July 9-23, 1994.
- Book: *Planets in Peril: A Critical Study of C. S. Lewis's Ransom Trilogy*. University of Massachusetts Press, September 1992. Rpt. as paperback 1995. Rpt. as eBook by Netlibrary.com 2000.
- Book: *What You Know Might Not Be So: 220 Misinterpretations of Bible Texts Explained*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book, 1987. Spanish translation: *Tal Vez No Sea Como Usted Piensa*. Deerfield, FL: Vida Press, 1990. Portuguese translation: *O Que Você Sabe Pode Não Estar Certo*. Deerfield, FL: Vida Press, 1990.
- Book: *303 Dumb Spelling Mistakes and What You Can Do About Them*. Chicago: National Textbook Company, 1989. Rpt. New York: Random House, 2001.
- Columns: "The Way We Word," *Elizabethtown* magazine (1995-2002). Rpts. in *Harrisburg Patriot-News*, *Lancaster Intelligencer-Journal*, and *Mifflinburg County Register*.
- Presentation: "The 'Poor' Perplex: 13 Ways of Looking at a Beatitude." Conference on Christianity and Literature, Calvin College, October 15, 1987.
- Article: "Waiting for Godoz: Deconstructing *The Wizard of Oz*." *Christianity and Literature* (Winter 1984), 28-30.
- Article: "Images of Christ in a Post-Christian World." *La Paz* (Fall 1983), 6-9.
- Presentation: "Hawthorne's Unpardonable Sinners." Conference on Christianity and Literature, Point Loma College, April 1983.
- Article: "Theology in J. R. R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*." *Radix* (November 1981), 7-9.
- Article: "'Streams of Scripture Comfort': Typology in Mary Rowlandson's Captivity Narrative." *Early American Literature* 15 (1981), 252-59.

Story: "Good News Gardens." *La Paz* (February 1980), 10-11; rpt. *Buzz* [British] August 1980, 30-33; presented as BBC radio play, September 1980; rpt. *On Being* [Australian], February 1981, 18-20; rpt. *Southwest Lutheran Quarterly*, Summer 1981; rpt. *One* (April 1982), 12-13.

Story: "Pilgrim's Digress." *Eternity* (August 1978), 26-27; rpt. *Svenska Journalen* [Swedish], May 1979, 34-42.

Story: "Life After Life." *Wittenburg Door* (September 1977), 16-17.

Essay: "C. S. Lewis: Apostle to the Imagination." *Christianity Today*, October 8, 1971, 10-12. [Originally submitted as an essay my sophomore year to Dr. Arthur Lynip, English Department, Westmont College]

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Co-director [with Crystal Downing], Marion E. Wade Center, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois
- Director, Professional Writing Concentration, English Department, Elizabethtown College, 2001-2018
- Director, First-year Composition, English Department, Elizabethtown College, 2016-2017
- Advisor, *Etownian* [student newspaper], 2015-
- Chair, English Department, Elizabethtown College, 2012-2015
- Chair, Dean of Faculty Search Committee, Spring 2006
- Acting Chair, English Department, Elizabethtown College, 2002-2003
- Chair, Professional Standards Committee, 2001-2003
- President, Deer Run Homeowners Association, 1996-2001; 2004-2018
- Advisor, *Fine Print* [college literary magazine], Elizabethtown College, 1996-2005; 2015-
- Chair, Department of English, Westmont College, 1986-1991
- Member, Faculty Senate, Westmont College, 1984-1988
- Advisor, *Horizon* [student newspaper], 1985-1993
- Co-Director [with Crystal Downing], Britain Study Tour, Fall 1980; Fall 1982

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Editorial consultant, book publishers:

Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press; Wesleyan University Press; University of Toronto Press; Pepperdine University Press; HarperCollins; Blackwells Books; Kent State University Press; InterVarsity Press.

Editorial consultant, academic journals:

Seven: An Anglo-American Literary Review; *Publications of the Modern Language Association (PMLA)*; *LIT: Literature, Interpretation, Theory* (U of Connecticut); *Literature and Theology* (Oxford University Press); *Religion and Literature* (University of Notre Dame Press); *Modern Theology*; *Christianity and Literature*; *Christian Scholars Review*; *The McNeese Review*; *Sehnsucht*; *The Canadian C. S. Lewis Journal*.

Editorial consultant and outside reader, graduate theses:

External Examiner, Ph. D. Dissertation, University of Toronto: Robert Revington, "Modern Biblical Scholarship in Britain in Popular Christian Writing," July 2023

"Cosmic Warfare in C. S. Lewis," Brenda Adam, Ph. D. thesis, University of Queensland, Australia, 2016.

- “J. R. R. Tolkien's Sub-creation Theory and C. S. Lewis's Imagination.” Ph. D. thesis. Richard Brett Campbell. Union University Graduate School, 2010.
- “A Structuralist/Mythopoeic Approach to Reading the Chronicles of Narnia.” M. A. Thesis. Leila Talei, University of Tehran, Iran, 2009.
- “C. S. Lewis and George Orwell on Language.” M. A. Thesis. Lionel Wilson. University of Leicester, England, 2008.