

Friends of the Wade

The Marion E. Wade Center Wheaton College

New at the Wade

Since the dedication of the new building in September 2001, the Wade Center has continued to develop both inside and out. From the dramatic increase in visitors to the installation of a garden, we are gradually realizing the vision for our new facility.

The most visible change to the Wade Center is the addition of the new English garden. The preliminary stages are now complete, and the result is an elegant array of close to three dozen different perennials, including delphin-

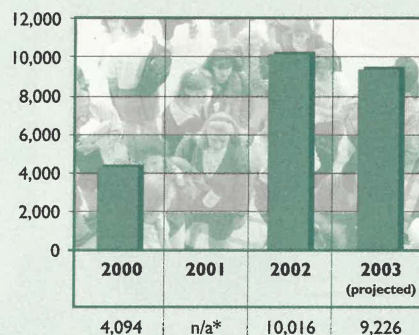


ium, baby's breath, daisies, lavender, coreopsis, and roses displayed in the front of the building and framed by a low wrought-iron fence with limestone pillars. Designed by Rolland Hein in consultation with Kathy Balc, the garden combines the "university quad" look with its neatly trimmed grass and gravel walks, and the more informal English cottage garden style with flowering perennials in combination with a variety of shade and foliage accent plantings, such as silver mound, ferns, and astilbe. In part, the landscaping costs of the garden were supplemented by gifts from the class of 1974, presented in their 25th reunion year, in honor of Professor Clyde S. Kilby. A plaque commemorating this gift is mounted on one of four English teak-wood benches, which provide visitors with a comfortable

place to sit and enjoy the garden. To complement the flowers and other plantings, a trellis for sweet peas and clematis rests against the chimney wall. Further additions to the garden are planned, including an herb garden and a rose arbor.

Inside the building, the Kilby Reading Room has experienced its own changes through the completion of the room's accessories. This past year, gas logs were installed in the fireplace, and table-top reading room lamps were purchased. Both accents are a wonderful addition to the

Wade Center Visitors



* During 2001 the Wade Center was in transition to its new building

This chart illustrates the growth in number of visitors to the Wade Center between 2002 and 2003. After the explosive growth in 2002, the number of visitors has begun to stabilize at twice as many visitors as before the move.

already beautiful room, providing researchers with a workspace that is both professional and comfortable. Usage of the Reading Room has increased dramatically

*"The cry of
the deepest
in man has
always been
to see God."*

—George

MacDonald



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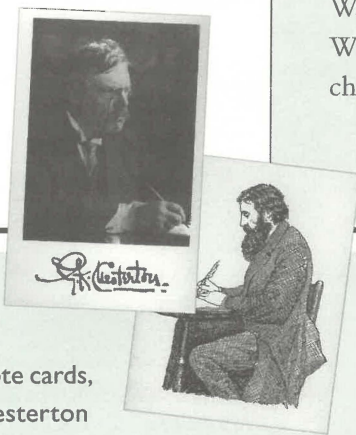
As we launch the *Friends of the Wade* newsletter, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for becoming a *Friend*. Your generosity is deeply appreciated. Some of you have been unofficially "Friends of the Wade" for many years, and it is in large part due to your gifts, combined with the support and efforts of others, that has enabled us to grow over our almost 40 year history into an internationally recognized educational and research facility. Your help is assisting us to meet the ever-increasing opportunities to serve those who are interested in the writings of the seven authors. Certainly, the completion of the new Wade Center in September of 2001, with its expanded museum and Kilby Reading Room, has greatly enhanced our staff's ability to help those who visit the Center; and it is our hope that in the near future we will be in a position to begin developing some long-desired and requested Wade reading and educational programs—including overseas tours, on-campus seminars, and conferences. Details on these opportunities will be forthcoming in our future newsletters. In closing, let me extend an invitation to each one of you, and in particular to those who have not yet visited the new Wade Center, to do so. And please, when you come, let me know. I would love to show you around.

WITH ALL GOOD WISHES,

C. Mitchell

Did You Know?

The Wade Center offers a variety of sales items relating to our seven authors. Choices include postcards, note cards, bookmarks, selected Lewis and Chesterton specialty items, posters featuring the artwork of J.R.R. Tolkien, and more. The Wade Center also provides several exclusive items, such as *The Letters of Dorothy L. Sayers*, prints of the Aslan painting by Robert Cording, the Wade Center's annual journal, *SEVEN: An Anglo-American Literary Review*, and Wade Center T-shirts. Please note that *SEVEN* can be ordered by mail, but all other sales items must be purchased at the Wade Center. **W**



New at the Wade

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since our move into the new building. For example, in 2000, our last full year in our former location in Buswell Library, the Reading Room hosted 159

readers. In contrast, in 2002 during the first complete year in our new building, we had almost 515 readers, more than tripling the number in 2000. Further, through August of 2003, 508 readers have already used the Reading Room; thus, by the end of this year, these numbers could easily swell to 700–800 patrons. This increase is due, in part, to our expanded Reading Room with its three reading tables, which enable us to accommodate classes, small groups, as well as individuals.

The new building's classroom also greatly enhances the Wade Center's ability to serve the outside community. During the past year, the Wade Center staff gave 82 presentations to over 3,500 people—the majority of which were given in the Wade Center classroom. These groups include Wheaton College classes as well as local school-children (primary through high school), church groups, and community organizations.

Through all the transitions of the last few years, the Wade Center has appreciated the continual support it has received through its *Friends*. Whether it is through external expansions, such as the garden, or an internal improvement, such as enhancing the Reading Room, we are working to achieve our core objectives: preserving our current holdings, acquiring more pertinent material, assisting ongoing research, and creating general interest in the authors through education, speaking, and research. Thank you for your assistance in helping us make all of this a reality. **W**

Up Close

Wade Center Steering Committee

Our Steering Committee meets three times a year and the members are: Alex Balc, Tony Dawson, Lyle W. Dorsett, Carol Kraft, Marilee Melvin, Jerry Root, Leland Ryken, and Mary Wade. The committee serves as an advisory board for the Wade Center's various educational and research activities. As a way of introducing the *Friends of the Wade* to the Steering Committee, a different member will be highlighted periodically.

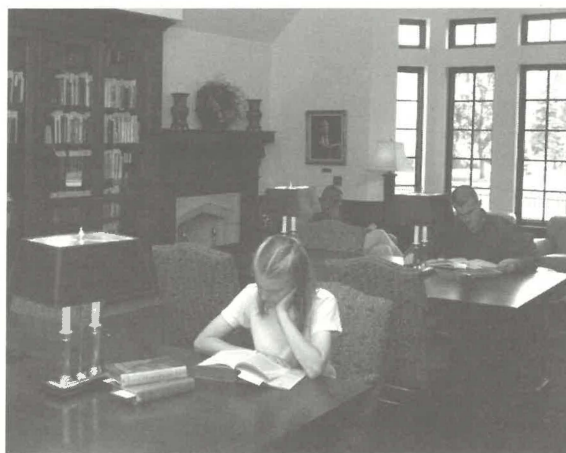
Member Profile: CAROL KRAFT

As a longtime reader of C.S. Lewis, Carol Kraft was delighted to be invited to join the Wade Steering Committee in 1981. She developed an interest in

Lewis (and several other Wade authors) while on the faculty at Wheaton. During that time she sat in on a class taught by Clyde Kilby, an experience that sparked her interest in the writings of C.S. Lewis even more. Intrigued by his thoughtful ideas and focused study, Carol found in Lewis a refreshing symbol of free-

thinking within the boundaries of traditional Christianity—ideals that she thinks make Lewis such a perfect and important fit for the intellectual culture of Wheaton College. "His thought has such a wide application," she says, adding that "it penetrates other fields of study and other peoples' work."

Carol's own field of study is German language and literature. She attended Wheaton College as an undergraduate, going on to graduate study in German at Columbia University (NY) and the University of Michigan. In 1960, she joined the faculty of Wheaton, where for nearly four decades she taught and served on the Faculty Personnel and Health Professions Committees. Outside the college, Carol has served as an ordained deacon in her church, St. Barnabas Episcopal in Glen Ellyn, and has been involved in the church's spiritual direction/mentoring program. **W**



Reading Room in the Marion E. Wade Center

Spotlight on SEVEN:

Volume 19

Many of the Wade Center's *Friends* have already received the mailing announcing the publication of Volume 19 of *SEVEN: An Anglo-American Literary Review*. While all six articles in this journal have much of value (including, for example, for the first time in print, an omitted chapter from Clyde S. Kilby's 1976 book *Tolkien and The Silmarillion*), Professor Mark Noll's article may be of particular interest, as it commemorates the 50th anniversary of the publication of C.S. Lewis's classic apologetic work, *Mere Christianity*. First given by Lewis as talks over the BBC radio during World War II, this article details the progression of how these broadcasts originated, the type of responses that they drew from their war time audience, and how they were eventually turned into written form. While exploring potential problems with C.S. Lewis's ideal, particularly in light of today's diverse and increasingly ecumenical age, Professor Noll also assesses the value of pursuing this ideal in spite of these difficulties. For further information on how to order Volume 19 (or on the contents of previous volumes which are available as back issues) please contact the Wade Center. **W**

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Highlights

Dr. Christopher Mitchell (Director of the Wade Center) will be speaking at the Petoskey Area C.S. Lewis Festival on November 6th–8th, 2003. The festival will be taking place throughout the month of November in Petoskey, Michigan, and will include a public viewing of the documentary, "The Magic Never Ends: The Life and Work of C.S. Lewis," as well as various theatrical performances on the life and work of C.S. Lewis. Dr. Mitchell will give a talk entitled, "C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien: An Uncommon Friendship." For more information, see the Festival's website at www.petoskeyumc.org/lewis/.

Dr. Lyle W. Dorsett (Steering Committee member) will be speaking on the topic of his forthcoming book *Busy Learning to Pray: Spiritual Formation in the Life of C.S. Lewis* at Wheaton College on November 13, 2003. In his book and lecture, Dr. Dorsett will examine the long-neglected topic of C.S. Lewis's spiritual formation after his conversion, illustrating how his formation changed over time through the effects of prayer, Scripture, the church, his spiritual director, and Anglican spirituality. The lecture will take place at 7:30 PM at Barrows Auditorium, Wheaton College, and is open to the public.

