



Friends of the Wade

The Marion E. Wade Center

Wheaton College

Wade Chair of Christian Thought

The Wade Center is pleased to announce the establishment of the Marion E. Wade Chair of Christian Thought, a position to be filled by the Director of the Wade Center. An endowed Chair typically is created and funded to provide an academic position with a reduced teaching and administrative load, facilitating research, writing, and the development of strategically aimed academic programs. Since the Wade Director's position



Dr. Christopher W. Mitchell

can be held by an individual from any number of academic disciplines (for example, English, History, Philosophy, or Theology), the title of "Christian Thought" was

chosen to allow for the potential academic diversity required by future Directors.

The decision to create the Chair was made in light of the Wade Center's forty year history and its international reputation as an educational and research facility, and also in view of the particular benefits it is envisioned that the Chair will bring to the Center's work and mission. The marked growth in the number of people using the Center's facility over the years, as well as the heightened demand for various Wade programs, has increased the administrative load to such an extent that additional staffing has become necessary. Endowing the Director's position will allow the redirection of funds to support both additional staff and programs.

The generosity of an anonymous donor has brought in over half of the needed amount to fully fund the Chair. This funding has already made it possible to create a new position entitled Head of Public Services. This position, ably filled by Heidi Truty, is designed to take over many of the Wade Center's administrative duties, thereby allowing the Director and Associate Director to pursue the academic and programmatic aspects of the Wade's mission in a more focused and effective way.

A second but no less important purpose of the Chair, is to make an academic contribution in the area of the seven authors. While still being involved in oversight of the Wade Center, the Director as Chair will be freed up to direct more time and energy for increased research, writing, and speaking assignments. In addition to the primary focus of Wade-related research, the Director may also carry on research and publish in his/her area of specialty in a way that directly complements his/her work on the Wade authors. Further areas of attention for the Chair will be development and implementation of long-desired and requested Wade reading and educational programs—including on-campus seminars, conferences, and workshops.

Dr. Mitchell will officially take up his new role Thursday, November 17th when he will give an inaugural address in Blanchard 339.

Watch our website,
www.wheaton.edu/learnres/wade,
for details. **W**

*"God loves us;
not because we
are loveable
but because He
is love, not be-
cause He needs
to receive but
because He de-
lights to give."*

—C.S. Lewis



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Forty years ago, in February 1965, Professor Clyde Kilby placed fifteen letters he had received from C.S. Lewis and a small collection of books into the hands of Mrs. Ruth Cording, who deposited them in a small room in the basement of the College library. Such was the beginning of the Marion E. Wade Center. What Professor Kilby hoped the collection would become that February day in 1965 one can only guess. What in fact it has become forty years later, undoubtedly, is far more than he had envisioned. Just this past month, a fully equipped Smart Classroom was installed and is up and running. It provides us with an amazing array of equipment. In addition to being able to play videos, CD's and DVD's, it also allows us to give PowerPoint presentations. Through the computer connection, we can access and display material both from the internet as well as from our own Wade collection. Moreover, the document viewer is capable of projecting on screen just about anything we place on it, such as books containing the marginal notes of our authors. This allows us to safely share fragile materials with our visitors, without risking damage. With the Smart Classroom, our ability to utilize and display our holdings has increased a hundredfold, and with it our ability to better serve the public. On behalf of the entire Wade staff, thank you to all who have helped make this a reality.

WITH ALL GOOD WISHES,

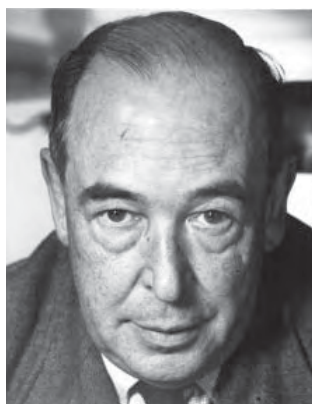
Christopher Mitchell

Did You Know?

- A live-action film of *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* has been filmed in New Zealand, and is now in its finishing stages in Los Angeles.
- The movie, produced by Walden Media and distributed by Walt Disney Pictures, will be released in December 2005.
- In January, Wade Center Director Christopher Mitchell met with studio executives in Los Angeles, and saw a few "preview" film clips.
- The director of the film, Adam Adamson, first read *The Chronicles of Narnia* at age 8 in just ten days.



2005 Writing and Literature Conference to Focus on C.S. Lewis



C.S. Lewis

(© The Marion E. Wade Center)

The enduring appeal of C.S. Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia* has been clearly evident since their initial publication more than half a century ago. Never out of print, the seven Narnian tales have combined sales of about 3.5 million copies annually

in 33 different languages. With the forthcoming movie of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (projected release in December) only heightening the interest in Lewis's classic children's stories, the time was right for the 2005 Writing and Literature Conference to focus on "Faith and Fiction: C.S. Lewis's Narnian Tales."

The Conference, co-sponsored by the Wheaton College English Department and the Wade Center, is scheduled for September 29-30 and promises to deliver a rich program of Lewis scholarship. The keynote speaker is the award-winning author, Katherine Paterson. Ms. Paterson, a pastor's wife and former missionary to Japan, has received numerous awards for her realistic children's books. Approaching her topic as both writer and reader, Ms. Paterson's address, "Co-Creators with God," will explore how the imaginative process can awaken the reader to spiritual realities, with a particular emphasis on *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

Another distinguished participant in this year's conference will be Walter Hooper, who has spent the majority of his professional life editing numerous volumes of C.S. Lewis's writings and furthering scholarship on Lewis.

Hooper will give several presentations, including one talk on the background materials that led to the creation of Lewis's Narnian stories, as well as an after-dinner speech in which he will share anecdotes about his personal experiences with Lewis.



Katherine Paterson

(© Samantha Loomis Paterson)

The other presenters in the program are also well-known for their Lewis scholarship. Rev. Michael Ward, Chaplain of Peterhouse, Cambridge University, will be speaking on faith and imagination in Friday morning's Wheaton College chapel service, as well as presenting a talk on *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*. Dr. Peter Schakel of Hope College, and Dr. David Downing from Elizabethtown College will each address unique aspects of Lewis's Narnian works. Following these talks, a panel of Wheaton College authors will discuss their newly released or forthcoming books on Lewis. This panel discussion will explore important insights into the writing process itself, as well as into Lewis's own works.



Tom Key

To round out the conference, award-winning actor Tom Key will present his captivating one-man show "C.S. Lewis on Stage" on Friday night. First adapted in 1978, Mr. Key's performances as the Oxford don have earned acclaim from both drama critics and Lewis

acquaintances, such as Clyde S. Kilby and Sheldon Vanauken. Key has given this presentation at the John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C., the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford, and at concert artist series tours nationwide. Information about tickets will be available through the Wade Center beginning in August.

All of the Writing Conference events are open to the public. Please watch for more details on our website www.wheaton.edu/learnres/wade as they become available, or call (630) 752-5908 for more information. **W**

Clyde S. Kilby Research Grant

Every year, scholars from around the world come to the Wade Center to do research. The Clyde S. Kilby Research Grant is awarded annually to a researcher who has utilized the resources of the Wade Center to study one of our authors, with the intent of publishing his or her research. The source of this monetary award is the income from the Kilby Research Grant Endowment, which was a gift of the Class of 1939, given in honor of the Wade Center founder, Clyde Kilby.

The process of choosing the recipient of this award begins when the Wade Center Director presents the names of potential candidates to the Steering Committee, which then selects the recipient. Since its inception in 1982, over \$16,000 has been awarded to authors who have produced some of the most significant Wade related scholarship of the past two decades, including Lyle W. Dorsett, David Downing, Colin Duriez, Barbara Reynolds, George Sayer, and Peter Schakel.

Three Kilby Grants were awarded in 2004, bringing the total number of recipients to thirty-one. The 2004 grants were awarded to Wayne Martindale for *Beyond the Shadowlands: C.S. Lewis on Heaven and Hell*; Laura K. Simmons for *Creed without Chaos: Exploring Theology in the Writings of Dorothy L. Sayers*; and Joel Heck for his forthcoming volume *Irrigating Deserts: C.S. Lewis on Education*. **W**

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Wade Author Anniversaries

The year 2005 marks two important milestones related to our authors. First, it is the 50th anniversary of the publication of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*. When Tolkien finished his final draft in 1950, he had intended for the manuscript to be published as a single volume. His publisher, however, decided to split it into three separate books, and thereby stagger the publication over several years to save money on printing costs. Therefore, the entire work was not published until 1955.

Tolkien fans around the world will be celebrating this momentous anniversary. Director Chris Mitchell will represent the Wade Center at a Tolkien conference in honor of the publication of *The Lord of the Rings* in Birmingham, England in August.

2005 is also the centenary of George

MacDonald's death. MacDonald (1824 – 1905) was a Scottish preacher and teacher, who is best known for his works of fantasy and myth.

Several conferences will be held in the United States and England to commemorate the 100th anniversary of MacDonald's death. Dr. Mitchell will travel to London to attend a conference at the end of July. On this side of the Atlantic, Baylor University will host a MacDonald conference September 16th–18th in Waco, Texas.

The Wade Center will present its new MacDonald display later this summer. We invite you to visit our museum to learn more about George MacDonald as you enjoy images of Scotland and read excerpts from his writings—works which have brought many, including C.S. Lewis, into a closer relationship with God. **W**



J. R. R. Tolkien



George MacDonald