



Friends of the Wade

The Marion E. Wade Center Wheaton College

Wade Programs to Benefit from Classroom Upgrade

Throughout the year the Wade Center gives a variety of presentations to many different types of groups. Without a doubt, our ability to serve these groups was enhanced when we moved to our new building which provides us for the first time with our own classroom. In our previous location, a small display room shared with the College library functioned



One of the many primary school groups which come to the Wade classroom to view a presentation on *C.S. Lewis and Narnia*.

as our classroom. Its size, however, made it difficult to accommodate large groups, and chairs and audio-visual equipment had to be set up and taken down for each presentation. In the current Wade Center, our classroom is equipped with a large whiteboard, a permanent screen, and forty chairs with writing arms.

In 2003, the Wade gave 49 in-house presentations to approximately 1,750 people. That is almost one presentation per

week to a group averaging 35 in number. It is clear that there is a strong desire on the part of the public that we continue to offer this programming—and in fact, to add more presentations as staff time allows. In light of this ongoing interest, we are very interested in further enhancing our classroom capabilities. Fortunately, the classroom was designed and built to accommodate what is known as a “Smart Classroom.”

What is a Smart Classroom? It is a technology-enabled classroom that provides all the strengths and flexibility of computing and presentation media. It provides access to such tools as the Internet, a document handler, videodisks, and CD-ROMs, allowing both the presenter and audience the opportunity to utilize a much wider variety of resources than would be possible in traditional classrooms.

So how would the Wade Center and its programs benefit from this technology? The introduction of new technologies would allow greater variety to our presentations by using PowerPoint or similar software that coordinates images with text, sound, or video clips. Also, materials that are currently unavailable for viewing by groups due to their fragile state or security risk (rare books, manuscripts, etc.) could be displayed while only handled by the presenter, using the document

“The most incredible thing about miracles is that they happen.”

—G.K. Chesterton



Wheaton College
For Christ and His Kingdom

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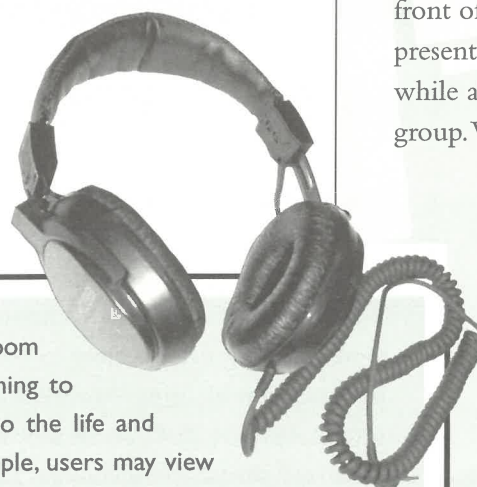
Often I am asked how the Wade Center acquired its manuscript materials. The answer is that they have come, one, through financial contributions that have enabled us to purchase collections, and two, by the direct donation of papers. An important example of the latter took place this past December. I first met Mrs. Ruth Spalding ten years ago in London at a Charles Williams Society meeting. That evening she brought with her a large collection of Williams's papers he had given to her. (Williams, who worked for Oxford University Press in London, was evacuated to Oxford in 1939 and lived at the Spalding home until his death in May 1945.) Noting my interest in Williams, Mrs. Spalding invited me to visit her the next time I was in England and have a closer look at the collection. My initial visit, as it turned out, was the first of many. This December, as I once again sat in her sitting room looking through the papers, she told me that she had decided that the collection was to go to the Wade Center and asked if I had room to take them back with me. A bit stunned, I thanked her and assured her that I did. As a result of Mrs. Spalding's thoughtfulness and generosity, this wonderful collection will be available for interested readers to use for years to come, and for this we are most grateful.

WITH ALL GOOD WISHES,



Did You Know?

The Wade Center has a special room reserved for watching or listening to audio/visual materials related to the life and work of our authors. For example, users may view materials such as the documentary, *The Magic Never Ends*, about C.S. Lewis, or listen to oral history interviews, lectures, and recordings of Wade authors' voices (we have all the authors' voices on tape except George MacDonald). If you are interested in using the audio/visual room, please see the Reading Room Attendant next time you visit the Wade Center. **W**



Wade Programs to Benefit

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handler. Another feature of the Smart Classroom is that we could videotape our presentations, which would provide the opportunity for researchers and visitors to view them in years to come.

Currently, each time a program is scheduled, we must order the equipment from another College department, have it delivered prior to the event, set it up, and later dismantle it for return. Further, in order to maximize the seating in our classroom, we have to set up the equipment in a semi-precarious

fashion using a stand and a student desk in the back of the classroom. In contrast, the Smart Classroom would have the video projector



secured to the ceiling, with the computer at the front of the classroom. This would enable the presenter to stand at a lectern facing the audience, while all of the desks could be used by the visiting group. With this type of permanent installation, we would not need to be concerned about finessing borrowed equipment or about guests stumbling over power cords.

The bottom line is that the availability of such instructional equipment will allow us to utilize a much wider range of archival materials in our presentations and greatly enhance the quality of the learning process. Currently, we are in the process of raising the \$35,400 needed to turn our classroom into a Smart Classroom. If you are interested in helping, please send your contribution to the Wade Center, marked "Smart Classroom." **W**

Up Close Marion E. Wade



Visitors to the Wade Center often wonder who Marion Wade was. In brief, Mr. Wade was a successful businessman and a long-time resident of the Chicago area. He began a mothproofing business, *Wade, Wenger, and Associates*, in 1930, and developed it into the multi-million dollar *ServiceMaster Corporation*. But this answer fails to address what

Mr. Wade himself believed was the most important thing about his business, and that is “the way” it all came about.

In 1944, at the age of 46, Mr. Wade nearly lost his eyesight from chemicals in a mothproofing accident. In the months that followed, while waiting to have the bandages removed from his eyes, he thought a great deal about his life and found that he was not satisfied. Accordingly, as soon as his eyesight was restored, he began to read his Bible fervently. The persistent themes of meditating on God’s word and serving Him wholeheartedly caused him to reflect upon “what the Lord would do with a company in which every employee, from top to bottom, did his job for the glory of God.” From that day forward, Mr. Wade made it his mission to build a business based on clear Biblical principles. In 1947, having expanded his business services to rug and carpet cleaning, the company grossed \$100,000. By 1954, the annual gross income reached \$12 million. This same year the company began granting franchises to entrepreneurs around the country, and the company was renamed *ServiceMaster*, thereby declaring the company’s purpose to serve the Master while it served its customers.

ServiceMaster continued to grow and prosper until Mr. Wade’s death in 1973. In his memory, family and friends established an endowment to the C.S. Lewis Collection at Wheaton College, and the collection was renamed The Marion E. Wade Center. **W**

Spotlight on *SEVEN*: Volume 20

Given that the majority of our Wade authors’ primary works were written and published in the first half of the 20th century, just how relevant are their thoughts to the tumultuous events of our current age? Two articles in our latest issue of *SEVEN* (volume 20) give evidence that they are very relevant indeed. The first of these by Suzanne Bray, Senior Lecturer in British Civilization at Lille Catholic University, France, gives an insightful assessment of C.S. Lewis’s political views—refuting a sometimes popular perception that Lewis was a right-wing reactionary who was largely uninformed about the political realities of his day. In fact, Dr. Bray illustrates that Lewis did have a solid understanding of significant world events and brought his usual discernment to bear when considering these circumstances. The second article by Barbara Reynolds, *SEVEN*’s Managing Editor, is a careful examination of Dorothy L. Sayers’s attitude toward war. Dr. Reynolds demonstrates that Sayers believed that all humankind shares a common guilt which, all too often, results in the tragedy of war—and that the only answer to this profound guilt is to be found in the person of Christ. **W**



Dorothy L. Sayers
Air Raid Warden
World War II

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Highlights

Usage Statistics

Wade Center 2003 The following statistics indicate the people for whom the Wade Center provided services both at and away from our facility.

- 8,717 visits to the Wade Center (10,016 in 2002)
- 869 research visits to the Reading Room by 663 people (513 total people in 2002)
- 4,975 people attended presentations and lectures (3,583 in 2002)

Upcoming Event

C.S. Lewis and Freud: Dr. Armand M. Nicholi, Jr. (Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School) will be speaking on the topic of his recently published book *The Question of God: C.S. Lewis and Sigmund Freud Debate God, Love, Sex, and the Meaning of Life* at Wheaton College on November 3rd–5th, 2004. Dr. Nicholi will address the college's Chapel services each day at 10:35 a.m. at Edman Chapel and lecture at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 4th at Barrows Auditorium, Wheaton College. You are very welcome to attend any of these talks. Please contact the Wade Center if you need further information.

