



Friends of the Wade

The Marion E. Wade Center Wheaton College

New Wade Co-Directors, David and Crystal Downing

On July 1, Drs. David and Crystal Downing will begin their tenure as co-directors of the Wade Center and co-holders of the Marion E. Wade Chair of Christian Thought at Wheaton College. Visitors and researchers will benefit significantly from the Downings' professional partnership in this role, and from the increased time they each will have to invest in writing and research on the seven Wade authors.

Crystal and David have enjoyed a long and collegial connection with the Wade Center that stretches back to a conference David attended at Wheaton College in the mid-1990s. By accompanying David on his subsequent research visits to the Wade to work on C.S. Lewis, Crystal began her research on Dorothy L. Sayers, which led to the publication of her first book titled *Writing Performances: the Stages of Dorothy L. Sayers*. As recently as 2014, David partnered closely with Wade staff while serving as editor for the Wade Annotated Edition of C.S. Lewis's *The Pilgrim's Regress*. As the Downings reflected: "For decades, we have both enjoyed the insight and encouragement provided by the Wade Center and its staff. So it seems fitting that we ourselves should now become official members of the Wade community."

The Downings look forward to bringing their creativity and expertise to the Wade and anticipate encouraging others to reap the benefits that follow from reading these seven brilliant minds. In particular, they hope to extend the Wade's global, generational, and technological reach. They are eager to meet with friends and constituents of the Wade to consider how to maximize the Wade's resources in order to bridge the sacred and



the secular. Well aware of the transformative power of the imagination, they look forward to finding new ways to reach a world in need of hope and grace.

Marjorie Lamp Mead, who has been serving as the Wade's interim director since 2013, will resume her role as Associate Director. Echoing the sentiments of the entire Wade staff, Marj says, "We are looking forward with great anticipation to welcoming Crystal and David to the Wade Center very soon. The Downings are tremendously gifted speakers and writers, and they bring a respect for the legacy of the Wade as well as the promise of their own distinguished scholarship to extend and deepen that legacy. We are excited and grateful for the increased opportunities that their tenure will bring."

The Downings are the first to be jointly appointed to the Wade directorship in the more than 50-year history of the Wade Center. They follow Wade founder and first director Clyde S. Kilby (1965–1980), Lyle W. Dorsett (1983–1990), and Christopher Mitchell (1994–2013). **W**

*"Friendship ...
is born at the
moment when one
man says to another
"What! You too?
I thought that no
one but myself ..."
— C.S. Lewis*



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Enhancing Dorothy L. Sayers Scholarship

In December 2017, the Wade Center acquired at auction the last grouping of personal papers belonging to Barbara Reynolds—scholar, biographer, goddaughter of Dorothy L. Sayers, and friend of the Wade. Included in the ten boxes of files are manuscript materials and correspondence with Sayers, various versions of her translation of Dante's *Paradise*, a lecture on Dante's reception in England, an introduction to the *Song of Roland*, correspondence on the role of persuasion in art, and other related items. This is a significant cache of materials for the Wade that will strengthen our collection, helping both present and future generations of scholars who endeavor to better understand the thought and writings of Dorothy Sayers.

Related to this, the Wade Center recently established through some initial gifts the **Barbara Reynolds Research Fellowship**, an endowed fund to honor, continue, and advance the scholarly work of Dr. Barbara Reynolds on the life and writings of Dorothy L. Sayers. There is much depth and breadth to the Sayers materials housed at the Wade, and a research fellowship will enable more researchers to come and use these resources over



an extended period of time to further their scholarship. *The Wade* is accepting donations to the Barbara Reynolds Research Fellowship so that we may begin awarding grants as soon as possible. See the insert for more information if you would like to help. **W**

Notable Upcoming Events

MURIEL FULLER ENDOWMENT FOR THE IMAGINATION AND THE ARTS

This inaugural event will span two evenings and will offer creative presentations by **Michael Ward** (British and C.S. Lewis scholar) and **Malcolm Guite** (English poet, singer-songwriter, Anglican priest, and academic):

- *Tuesday, September 25 in Barrows Auditorium.*
In addition to performances of song and poetry, Jerry Root will dialogue with Ward and Guite on C.S. Lewis and how the imagination and the arts can point to the divine (*co-sponsored with the Wheaton College Evangelism Initiative*).
- *Wednesday, September 26 in Bakke Auditorium.*
Ward and Guite will offer a joint presentation on Dante and C.S. Lewis.

KEN AND JEAN HANSEN LECTURESHIP

Dr. Jerry Root (Professor of Evangelism and Director of the Evangelism Initiative, Wheaton College) will present a 3-part series on “C.S. Lewis’s *Dymer*: A Splendour in the Dark.” All lectures will be in Bakke Auditorium.

- *Thursday, November 8, 2018.* “C.S. Lewis’s *Dymer*: A splendour in the dark, a tale, a song” with faculty respondent Dr. Jeffrey C. Davis.
- *Thursday, February 7, 2019.* “C.S. Lewis’s *Dymer*: Brooding alone beneath the strength of things” with faculty respondent Mark Lewis.
- *Thursday, March 21, 2019.* “C.S. Lewis’s *Dymer*: The flowers of unborn springs” with faculty respondent Dr. Miho Nonaka.

Irish Artist Ross Wilson Visits the Wade

To commemorate the centenary of C.S. Lewis's birth—who was born in Belfast, Ireland on November 29, 1998—a life-sized bronze sculpture was unveiled in front of Belfast's Holywood Arches Library in November 1998. Titled "The Searcher," it was the creation of one of Northern Ireland's leading artists, Ross Wilson.

The sculpture depicts Digory Kirke from *The Magician's Nephew* opening the door to a large wardrobe. In Lewis's story, it was Digory who crafted the wardrobe from a beautiful and magical apple tree. And of course, this was the wardrobe that later became the doorway to Narnia in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

On February 15, 2018, Ross Wilson made his first journey to the Wade Center to explore our collections. That evening he offered a talk to the broader community about his work as a Christian artist in Northern Ireland. Ross explained that as an artist he has learned to see with "the soul of the eye," which is looking and recognizing things and people as they truly are and not just as they appear. He went on to state how this mindset has allowed him to appreciate the generosity found in giving and receiving attention, time, and encouragement. Ross also shared stories and images of where his art has helped to provide a visual identity and assist in community transformation. His talk with slides can be viewed on the Wade's YouTube channel at youtube.com/c/WadeCenter.

While at Wheaton, Ross also had various opportunities to interact with Wheaton College students in the art department and through Christ at the Core seminars. As a remembrance of his visit to Wheaton, Wilson gifted the Wade Center with an original portrait of Lewis as a young man (*pictured*).

In the month after his visit, Ross wrote: "I still think about my visit to Wheaton and in particular the Wade Center. I was struck by how much of the very

essence of C.S. Lewis and his narrative both inwardly and outwardly is cared for and nurtured within those walls—how the identity of a life impacted by Christ is kept in trust there so that other generations can gain and be inspired by its richness of grace."

Ross Wilson holds degrees from the University of Ulster and the Chelsea School of Art in London. His work is displayed in many public collections around the world, including the British Museum and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

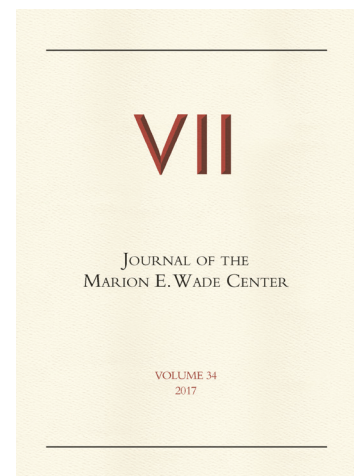
On the rear of Ross's Belfast sculpture is a quote from *Mere Christianity*: "This world is a great sculptor's shop. We are the statues and there's a rumor going around the shop that some of us are someday going to come to life." **W**



*Portrait of C.S. Lewis as a young man,
artist Ross Wilson 2018*

articles on Wade authors Barfield, Tolkien, and Williams, this most recent volume includes the recently discovered Lewis article, "A Christmas Sermon for Pagans," along with an introductory article by Joel Heck and Christopher Marsh. Lewis wrote the article for the December 1946 issue of *The Strand Magazine*. Volume 34 also contains an unpublished "lost chapter" from Lewis's *Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer*.

Information about how to order *VII*, as well as online articles and reviews, can be found on our website. **W**



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Highlight

Upon entering the Wade Center, a visitor's gaze will hopefully be drawn to the newest, eye-catching wall display in the museum titled, **Adventures in Reading**.

The display, which was recently installed where the 50th Anniversary display had been, is an exploration of the books the Wade authors appreciated as children and young adults, and which, in turn, bore an influence on the stories they wrote for children. It includes facsimiles of books both read and written by the authors along with captions explaining their connections.

To complement this child-focused theme, the adjacent cabinet to the right of the wall display

highlights various figurines, memorabilia, and toys inspired by the works of C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien. The model of the *Dawn Treader* ship used in our past *Voyage of the Dawn Treader* display has made a reappearance as well.



Because many of our visitors who come through the Wade's front doors do not venture past the museum area, the various permanent and rotating displays in the museum serve to introduce them to the Wade Center's history as well as highlight different themes and artifacts relating to our seven authors. With this new

display, it is our hope that visitors young and old will be encouraged to read these classic children's tales for themselves as well as some of our authors' lesser known children's works. **W**