“The Faithful Imagination”

ANNOUNCEMENT and CALL FOR PAPERS

11th Biennial Lewis and Friends Colloquium,

(Held jointly with the annual meeting of the C. S. Lewis and Inklings Society)

JOIN US at Taylor University for our 11th Frances White Ewbank Colloquium, May 31-June 3, 2018, sponsored by The Center for the Study of C.S. Lewis & Friends. The Taylor Colloquium features keynote addresses by top scholars from both sides of the Atlantic, as well as presentations by professors, writers, students, fans, and friends. Dr. Devin Brown of Asbury University recently called it “the premiere Inklings conference in the world.” If that isn’t enough, for the second time in our history, the Colloquium will be a cooperative venture between the Taylor Center and the our friends in the C. S. Lewis and Inklings Society.

Conference Theme: In 2018, the Colloquium will have a special emphasis on “Creativity and the Faithful Imagination.” Our special guests include Crystal Downing, Stephen Prickett, Ron Reed, Crystal Hurd, Charlie Starr, Joe Christopher, and many others. (see bios below).

That the specific authors we study (and related often-neglected authors) share an interest in the integration of faith and the imagination is sometimes overlooked in our emphasis on their integration of faith and reason. In keynote addresses, panel discussions, paper presentations, and creative work of all kinds, we hope to explore the range of meanings of “The Faithful Imagination” in C. S. Lewis, George MacDonald, Dorothy L. Sayers, J. R. R. Tolkien, Charles Williams, Owen Barfield, G. K. Chesterton, Lewis Carroll, Neville Coghill, Christopher Fry, and other 19th and 20th Century imaginative religious writers.

The Lewis and Friends Colloquium has a well-deserved reputation for being both brainy and friendly, both scholarly and popular. Join us for three days of stimulating scholarly and creative presentations, keynote addresses, workshops, panel discussions, and much more. Of course, it goes without saying that there will be the usual dramatic performances, board games, late night singalongs, excellent meals, and the world’s greatest temporary pop-up Inklings bookstore. This year’s colloquium will also include a rare and used Inklings book sale. Don’t dare NOT come. Join us. And, if you can, stay until our Sunday morning communion service, brunch, and (literal) roundtable discussions. Full colloquium information will be available by October 27 at: cslewisandfriendscolloquium.wordpress.com. Registration details should be available by mid-November.

Call for Papers: We invite paper proposals on any topic related to C. S. Lewis and Friends (broadly defined)—Owen Barfield, G. K. Chesterton, George MacDonald, Dorothy L. Sayers, J.R.R. Tolkien, Charles Williams, and others. We are especially interested in papers on the conference theme of “The Faithful Imagination,” in papers that expand the circle of “friends,” and in papers from younger scholars. We also invite creative work—poetry, fiction, essay, drama, film, visual art, musical composition, etc. —that responds to or is influenced by these same authors. Proposals should be 100-200 words in length and should anticipate a maximum twenty-minute presentation time limit. Creative work should be a complete work, rather
than a proposal. Please include your name, contact information, and a brief biography. Deadline for proposals is March 9, 2018. Please submit proposals by email, directly to the Lewis Center at cslewiscenter@taylor.edu.

NOTE: Members of CSLIS who wish to be considered for the “best paper” prizes (faculty, graduate student, and student) awarded by CSLIS must submit a copy of their complete paper to mhall@oru.edu.

The best way to be aware of colloquium news and updates is to “like” The Center for the Study of C. S. Lewis and Friends on Facebook. General questions about the colloquium may also be sent to cslewiscenter@taylor.edu.

*Student Essay Contest:* Currently enrolled undergraduate students may submit critical essays on the work of C. S. Lewis or a related author. Essays should not exceed ten double-spaced pages, excluding Works Cited. Winners will present their papers at the colloquium and receive monetary prizes, plus free registration, room, and board. **Deadline for student essays is March 31, 2018.** Please send student contest essays to Dr. Joe Ricke, Colloquium Chair, by E-mail at jsricke@taylor.edu. Include your name, year of study, and school affiliation. Again, note that student members of CSLIS must also submit their work separately to mhall@oru.edu.

*Student Creative Writing Contest:* Currently enrolled undergraduate students may submit creative writing (poetry, prose, drama, creative non-fiction, graphic novels, screenplays, etc.). Submissions should not exceed ten double-spaced pages (and should be at least five pages). The creative works should show familiarity with and influence by (or response to) the works of Lewis and Friends (broadly defined). Winners will present their papers at the colloquium and receive free registration, room, and board. **Deadline for student creative work is March 31, 2018.** Please send student contest creative work to Dr. Joe Ricke, Colloquium Chair, by E-mail at jsricke@taylor.edu. Include your name, year of study, and school affiliation.

**Keynote Bios:**

**Stephen Prickett** is Regius Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Glasgow, and an Honorary Professor of the University of Kent, at Canterbury. He took his B.A. and Ph.D. at Cambridge (where he studied under C. S. Lewis). He is President of the George MacDonald Society and Fellow of the English Association. His many publications include *Coleridge and Wordsworth: The Poetry of Growth, Victorian Fantasy,* and *Words and the Word: Language, Poetics and Biblical Interpretation* Most recently, he is the editor of *The Edinburgh Companion to the Bible and the Arts.*

**Crystal Downing** is the author of *Writing Performances: The Stages of Dorothy L. Sayers* (winner of the Barbara Reynolds Award), *How Postmodernism Serves (my) Faith, Changing Signs of Truth,* and a forthcoming book on Sayers and Film. Dr. Downing is Professor of English and Film Studies at Messiah College.

**Ron Reed** is the Founding Artistic Director of Pacific Theatre in Vancouver, B. C. Highly acclaimed as an actor, a director, and a playwright, Ron has not only played the role of C. S.
Lewis in *Shadowlands*, but is presently completing a full-length play on J. R. R. Tolkien (to premiere May 2018). Clearly drawing upon the influence of Lewis, Tolkien, and other favorite artists of his (like John Patrick Shanley), Ron’s long faithfulness to his vocation as a creative artist fits beautifully with our colloquium theme, “The Faithful Imagination.”

**Crystal Hurd** is a scholar, teacher, writer, and book review editor of *Sehnsucht, the C. S. Lewis Journal*. Her blog featured a popular eight-part series on “Lewis and Women” (2013). More recently, she has begun the “Young Lewis” series. Some of her recent work on the Lewis family has been published in *VII: Journal of the Marion Wade Center* and *Inklings Forever X: Papers from the 10th Frances White Ewbank Colloquium on C.S. Lewis & Friends*.

**Charlie Starr** is the author of *Light: C. S. Lewis’s First and Final Short Story* and the forthcoming *The Faun’s Library: C. S. Lewis on Why Myth Matters*. C. S. Lewis fans know him better as Charlie Starr, Code Breaker (actually I think I made that title in 2016) for his work on dating Lewis’s manuscripts by subtle differences in his handwriting over the years. His insights have recently helped with dating Lewis’s poems as well the Lewis/Barfield “Great War” manuscript in the Brown Collection at Taylor.

**Joe Christopher**, Professor Emeritus of English at Tarleton State University, is a distinguished teacher/scholar, a prolific poet, and foundational figure in the field of Inklings Studies. His early book *C. S. Lewis* (1978) in the Twayne Authors Series and his book with Joan Ostling, *C S. Lewis: Writings about Him and His Works* (1974) helped set the stage for the explosion of work on Lewis and the Inklings in the years since. Joe publishes regularly about Lewis, including over twenty essays on Lewis’s often-neglected poetry. He also serves on the Executive Board of the C. S. Lewis and Inklings Society.